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INTRODUCING HER EXCELLENCY PAULA-MAE WEEKES PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Born on December 23, 1958 in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Justice Weekes attended the Tranquillity Government Primary School and Bishop Anstey High School, a premier secondary educational institution established in 1921 by Bishop Arthur Henry Anstey for the education of Anglican girls.

In 1977 she entered The University of the West Indies, Faculty of Law, Cave Hill, Barbados graduating in 1980 with a Bachelor of Laws (Hons). She obtained her Legal Education Certificate from the Hugh Wooding Law School in 1982 and was admitted to the practice of law in Trinidad and Tobago later that year.

Justice Weekes joined the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions as State Counsel I in November 1982. After eleven years representing the State in the Magistrates', High and Appeal Courts she resigned as Senior State Counsel in 1993 and entered private practice. She established her own Chambers after a brief period in the Chambers of a distinguished Senior Counsel.

In 1996 Justice Weekes was invited to apply for the office of Puisne Judge in the Judiciary of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and was so appointed on September 1, 1996. She presided in the trial courts for nine years, almost exclusively in the criminal jurisdiction.

Justice Weekes was elevated to the Court of Appeal in January 2005 and presided in that court for eleven years. She retired from the Judiciary of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on August 31, 2016, after two decades of service.

Her Excellency Paula-Mae Weekes, President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Upon her retirement Justice Weekes was invited to join the Appellate Bench of the Judiciary of The Turks and Caicos Islands. On her assumption in September 2016 she became the first woman to serve in that capacity. Her last sitting was in November/December 2017 and she resigned in January 2018 ahead of her nomination for the Presidency.

Justice Weekes is a qualified judicial educator, having been made a Fellow of the Commonwealth Judicial Education Institute in 2000. Since that time, she has been deeply involved in training for various levels of judicial officer and has conceptualised, designed and facilitated a wide range of training programmes both locally and regionally.

Immediately after retirement from the Judiciary of Trinidad and Tobago Justice Weekes enjoyed a new incarnation as Executive Director of PMW Criminal Justice Consultancy and Training a small outfit providing services geared towards the development of the criminal justice sector. This venture is now in abeyance.

Justice Weekes was Course Director for Ethics Rights and Obligations of the Legal Profession at the Hugh Wooding Law School (2010-2016) and created the current course manual, supervised associate tutors, pioneered innovative pedagogical techniques and served as First Examiner during that period.

From 1997 until her election as President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago Justice Weekes was the Chancellor of the Anglican Church in the Diocese of Trinidad and Tobago. She was a member of the Diocesan Council and provided legal services on ecclesiastical and other matters to three successive Bishops of the Diocese.

Justice Weekes is an avid cultivator of orchids and enjoys exploring foreign lands.

INAUGURAL ADDRESS BY THE 6TH PRESIDENT OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO AT THE QUEEN'S PARK SAVANNAH

The following is an excerpt from the Inaugural address by Her Excellency Paula-Mae Weekes President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago at the Queen's Park Savannah, Port Of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago on March 19, 2018:

Fellow citizens from the least among you to the greatest and other distinguished guests.

Well before the date of assumption of any new position the candidate had better be clear about the job description. With that in mind I first looked at the Constitution and while it outlined certain duties and functions of president, the office holder's role was not defined. Then aided by memory, anecdote and available material I analysed the leadership and decision-making styles of my predecessors in office. This unscientific research led me to the conclusion that it falls to each President to define within prescribed limits his

Above: The parade is inspected by Her Excellency Paula-Mae Weekes. **Below:** Her Excellency Paula-Mae Weekes delivers her inaugural address. **Photos: otp.tt**

or in this case her own role. After much deliberation I identified my role as "humble first servant" with the mandate to render service with enthusiasm.

As I continued thinking about how I – as President and we – as a nation would navigate the course ahead, I remembered that many years ago after completing several marathons I was looking through a Runner's World magazine and saw an article by one of the USA's foremost authorities on long distance running. He opined that the ideal weight for a female marathoner was 95 to 100 lbs. I haven't stopped laughing yet, since at my lightest I was at least twice that and then on more serious reflection I thought, what if I had had this information before undertaking that challenge? Would I have allowed it to stop me? If I had, I would not have stretched myself beyond my then known limits, nor made wonderful friends. I would not have undertaken wild adventures such as attempting to climb a mountain with a name that begins Kill-a-man and perhaps most importantly I would not today be able to look back on that period, which was not without its hurdles – literal and figurative, with a sense of satisfaction, pride and accomplishment. Could this apply to us today? I say "us" because I consider that for the period of my tenure, our destinies mine and that of our nation are inextricably linked.

Many experts real and armchair, in positions high and low, "beset us round with dismal stories" they tell us that T&T is perilously close to the point of no return – crime, corruption, racism, abysmal public services and an ineffective judicial system, among other problems are so thick on the ground that all hope is lost; that we will soon be, if we are not already there, a failed state, however defined. So how do we respond to these commentators and to our reality? What are we to do?

As I see it we have but two (2) choices….Option 1 – We can lament, blame, criticise and allow a miasma of despair to overwhelm us or Option 2 we can consciously and intentionally choose the alternative. Not wish for – or dream about – or only hope and pray for the alternative, but make up a hard mind and mobilise forces and resources to step out boldly and make TT a better place for us and our children all the while understanding that though faith is a necessity, without action it is useless.

Let me confess up front to sharing certain characteristics with Pollyanna – that storybook character filled

with irrepressible optimism and a tendency to find good in everything – but I do not now nor have I ever lived in an ivory tower nor worn blinkers. I may have had some advantages that others have not, but having lived in Trinidad & Tobago all my life, I have endured the maddening inefficiencies of the public sector, I too drive with my windows up and doors locked even in broad daylight, I have lost two cars to thieves, and waited hours for medical attention for a relative at Port of Spain General Hospital (POSGH).

Her Excellency Paula-Mae Weekes with students from Bishop Anstey High School. **Photos: otp.tt**

I know what the murder count is and how many of the victims have been women and children slaughtered in acts of domestic violence, I am cognizant of the volatile tensions in east Port of Spain. I see people affected by mental illness, addiction and homelessness sleeping on the streets and if I needed to get to Tobago in a hurry I could not be certain if or when I would arrive. I comprehend fully the state of the state and so understand why we might have every reason to despair.

None of us is blind or foolish enough to deny that Trinidad and Tobago is going through dark times, but I echo the words of C.S. Lewis when I say -"this a good world gone wrong but it still retains the memory of what ought to have been." So, here comes the Pollyanna in me now – it is my mission, mission entirely possible, to infect each and every one of you with a bright and positive spirit as we strive to turn our beloved nation into what it ought to have been and still can be.

So let us today choose Option 2 confront the darkness and declare that it will not take over. It is a tenet of most major religions that light triumphs over darkness. Our Hindu community expresses the most visible manifestation with rows of deyas shining on the darkest night to symbolize the triumph of good over evil, of light over darkness. Even the humanists among us, who are of the school of philosophy that believes in human effort and ingenuity rather than religion, will agree that light is best seen in the dark and that it is always darkest just before the dawn.

Light always serves a purpose, it directs ships to safe harbour, it illuminates our path, it can lead the way, it purifies, it exposes hidden dangers, promotes clear vision and if legend is to be believed it even repels, vampires, goblins and foul fiends that try to daunt the spirit.

What I am saying is not novel at all but as a wise man once said "people need to be reminded more often than they need to be instructed."

Our challenge then is to be light and see light. I use the word challenge deliberately because this mission is not for the fainthearted. If I might loosely borrow some words from the Bard of Avon in Henry V we will need to

"Stiffen the sinews, summon up the blood,

Set the teeth and stretch the nostril wide,

Hold hard the breath and bend up every spirit

To his full height."

This will not be accomplished easily or overnight. It is a marathon folks! Whether we set off with a burst of speed or at a crawl there will come periods in which we fade and have to employ the "just to the next lamppost" strategy as we soldier on. But there will also be unexpected surges of energy when we are able to propel ourselves forward with extraordinary vigour. We must not become weary. We must trust that in time we will reap the benefits of our efforts.

Being a light does not necessitate grand schemes or accomplishments. A flickering candle can be as effective as a blazing bushfire in the right environment. Be a light in your home, instil discipline, model good behaviour, practise punctuality, honesty and politeness, or in your school, pay more attention to the lesson than to your phone, protect the vulnerable, respect those in authority, be a light in your community, care for your environment, be tolerant of views, beliefs and practices of others, re-imagine and re-engineer the village that it takes to raise today's children. You can be a light in your workplace, get to work on time, actually do work while you are there and go the extra mile if need be.

On a larger scale you can be a light in your nation. For that we will have to put country first – Before self, family, party, tribe. Let's not fool ourselves, at times this will take serious sacrifice. This is the work of patriots. Love for our twin islands has to be planted, nurtured and buttressed day after day after day and the seed must be sown in early childhood. I am always amazed at the way many of us behave as if the national anthem is for our entertainment rather than an opportunity to express afresh our national identity. We don't sing and then at the end we applaud. We do not rehearse often enough the nation-building lyrics of God Bless Our Nation and Our Nation's Dawning. Don't underestimate the value of knowing and regularly repeating those inspirational and aspirational words.

To read full speech, please visit:
https://otp.tt/inaugural-address-her-excellency-paula-mae-weeks/

THE PASSING OF FORMER PRESIDENT PROFESSOR GEORGE MAXWELL RICHARDS, TC, CMT, PHD

Professor George Maxwell Richards, TC, CMT, PhD was born in San Fernando on 1st December, 1931 and we mourn his passing on 8th January, 2018.

Professor George Maxwell Richards, T.C., C.M.T., Ph.D., served as the fourth President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for ten (10) years, completing two consecutive terms from 17th March, 2003 to 17th March, 2013. He was married to Dr. Jean Ramjohn-Richards and had two children, Mark and Maxine. He was fondly known by the population as "Max".

He was the recipient of two National Awards, namely the Chaconia Medal (Gold) in 1977 and the Nation's highest award the Trinity Cross in 2003, in recognition of his outstanding achievements.

He was a student at Queen's Royal College in Port of Spain. He entered the world of work in 1950 as a staff trainee at the United British Oilfields of Trinidad Limited (precursor to Shell Trinidad Limited) from where he obtained a scholarship to study chemical engineering. He pursued his higher education at the University of Manchester where he graduated with a Bachelor Degree in Engineering in 1955, a Master's Degree in Engineering in 1957 and subsequently a Ph.D. Degree in Chemical Engineering from Pembroke College, University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom.

Upon his return, Professor Richards worked at Shell Trinidad Limited in Point Fortin from 1957 to 1965. He gained professional experience in the petroleum industry working in several managerial positions of Shell Trinidad Limited. He left in 1965 to pursue a career in academia at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine. He served as Senior Lecturer and Head of the Department of Chemical Engineering and then Dean of the Faculty of Engineering before ascending to the ranks of Deputy Principal, Acting Principal Pro-Vice Chancellor and finally Principal in 1985. He retired as Principal in 1996.

Pictured: *Professor George Maxwell Richards, TC, CMT, PhD, former President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago*

He served on the Board of several companies including Trintoc (now Petrotrin), the National Gas Company, the Trinidad Publishing Company, the National Advisory Council, and as Chairman of the National Training Board and the Institute of Marine Affairs.

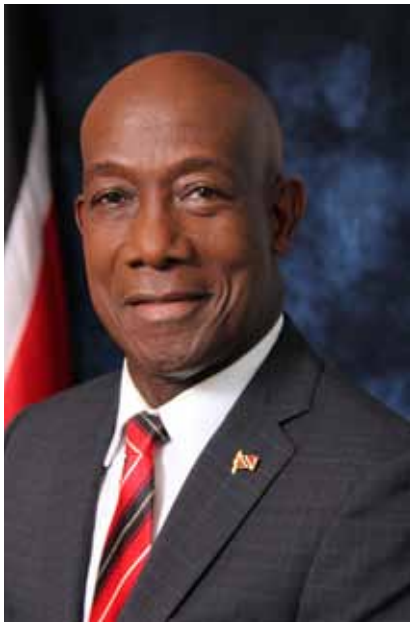
He is also well known for his involvement in and love of culture, especially Carnival and soca music. As a cultural pioneer, he started the annual UWI All-Inclusive Endowment Fund Fete that served as a source of funding to support needy and deserving students through bursaries. He played mas and also hosted an annual Carnival Fete "Friends to the Max" which dissolved to make way for "Jus' Maxx".

The Republic of Trinidad and Tobago has lost a true Statesman and Son of the Soil, a genuine patriot and cultural pioneer who served this country with class and distinction in his role as Head of State. He was an astute and visionary leader who was true to the tenets of the Constitution and left a legacy of excellence and service to his country both in academia and during his term as President of the Republic.

Professor George Maxwell Richards, T.C., C.M.T., Ph.D. was described as the quintessential Caribbean Statesman who made a difference to the lives of the people of this country and lived his life "to the max".

President Professor George Maxwell Richards was laid to rest on 17th January, 2018 after a State Funeral at NAPA, Port of Spain.

MESSAGE FROM DR THE HONOURABLE KEITH ROWLEY PRIME MINISTER ON THE OCCASION OF SPIRITUAL BAPTIST LIBERATION DAY 2018



Pictured: *Dr the Honourable Keith Rowley, Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago*

The following is an excerpt from the address by Dr the Honourable Keith Rowley Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad And Tobago on the Occasion of Spiritual Baptist Liberation Day on March 30th, 2018:

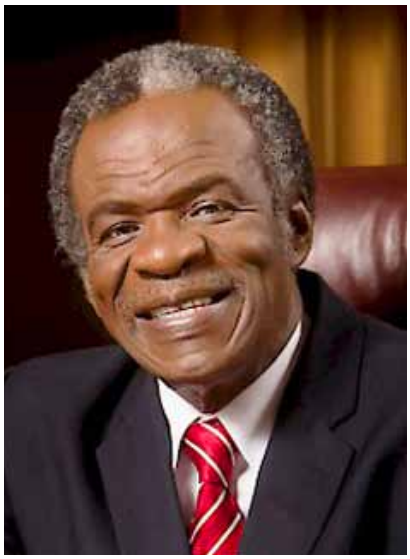
Indeed, the vibrancy of the celebrations that will take place today is an indication of our ability as a nation to move forward and to address the injustices of the past. On this day, let us remember the tireless efforts of those who were in the vanguard of the struggle for recognition and the right to exercise the most basic freedoms. Inasmuch as John the Baptist was revered as being sent by God to prepare the way for the Messiah, we must so too honour the sacrifices of those individuals who paved the way for the celebrations of freedom today.

This day of thanksgiving is also a vehicle for ensuring that their contributions to our society are not disregarded or lost to time and history. I nonetheless encourage every citizen of Trinidad and Tobago, regardless of background or belief, to spend time today becoming familiar with the history and significance of this struggle, which has played such a significant role in the shaping of our identity as a nation.

We can take example from the courage and tenacity exhibited by members of the Spiritual Baptist faith in the face of ridicule and intimidation during those dark days of persecution. Their persistence during those periods of difficulty is an attribute that is particularly pertinent to our national ethos today, given our challenging circumstances.

To read full speech, please visit: *bit.ly/PM-Spiritual-Baptist-Liberation-Day2018*

MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY ORVILLE LONDON ON THE OCCASION OF INDIAN ARRIVAL DAY 2018



Pictured: *His Excellency Orville London, High Commissioner for the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago*

The London Mission joins nationals in Trinidad and Tobago, the United Kingdom and the rest of the world, in celebrating Indian Arrival Day, on May 30th. This event commemorates the arrival of the first indentured labourers from India to Trinidad, on the Fatel Razack, in 1845 but it must give cause for all Trinidad and Tobago nationals to reflect and to celebrate.

We must celebrate the resilience, the determination and the character of the early arrivals and their descendants who endured the hazardous trip from India to work long hours, under harsh conditions on the estates to revitalise the sugar industry and the Trinidad and Tobago economy. We must celebrate their commitment to the tenets of their religion and their culture which enabled them, not just to survive, but to be successful in a new land, under challenging circumstances. We must celebrate their contribution to the development of our country in every sphere and their role in the forging of the unique and dynamic Trinidad and Tobago society.

All nationals, whether living in Trinidad and Tobago or the United Kingdom, should use the opportunity to reflect on the lessons to be learnt, as we celebrate Indian Arrival Day. Thrift, determination, a willingness to sacrifice in the pursuit of objectives, loyalty to and unity within family, belief in their own capacity and adherence to their religious doctrines were among the qualities which ensured that those who arrived from India, and their descendants, were able to make such significant advances, over the past 174 years. Those are the same qualities that are needed in Trinidad and Tobago today, as we attempt to recover from the recent economic downturn and continue to build a nation in which all citizens could have a realistic expectation of a quality life.

THE GAMBIA REJOINS COMMONWEALTH

Above: Commonwealth Secretary-General Baroness Scotland addressing High Commissioners and other dignitaries gathered on the grounds of Marlborough House to witness the flag raising ceremony signalling The Gambia's return to the Commonwealth family
At Left: HE Orville London congratulates the High Commissioner of Gambia, HE Francis Blain

Among the Heads of Government who generated significant attention at the 2018 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in London, was President Adama Barrow of The Gambia. It was President Barrow who, in February 2017, just one month after he assumed office as the third president of The Gambia, applied for readmission to the Commonwealth of Nations. Former president Yahya Jammeh had withdrawn The Gambia from the Commonwealth family in 2013 but the process for readmission proceeded smoothly after the election of President Barrow.

In December 2017, the Parliament of The Gambia unanimously affirmed the country's desire to rejoin the Commonwealth and the application was unanimously supported by the current 52 member states. A flag raising ceremony at Marlborough House, the London headquarters of the Commonwealth Secretariat, on Thursday February 8th, 2018, marked the return of The Gambia and President Barrow received an official invitation to attend the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting.

Speaking at the flag raising ceremony, Francis Blain, the newly appointed High Commissioner of The Gambia to the United Kingdom, said that "The Gambia looks forward to being able to contribute to and benefit from the collective wisdom of the Commonwealth family of countries, and to playing an active role in supporting the work of the Commonwealth Secretariat and the many other organisations and initiatives that flourish as expressions of Commonwealth connection. The Government will also draw on all the Commonwealth has to offer, assisting in practical ways to address a wide range of pressing issues - including protecting the environment and tackling climate change, and the empowerment of women and young people".

There are now 53 members of the Commonwealth, representing 2.4 billion people and spanning every continent on the globe. There is hope that, with the change of government in Zimbabwe, that country will also return to the Commonwealth family before the next Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, scheduled for Rwanda in 2020.

DEVELOPING THE POTENTIAL OF THE COCOA INDUSTRY IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Pictured: HE Orville London with Mr Ashley Parasram viewing the Trinidad and Tobago feature in the Harrod's brochure

Ashley Parasram, Director and Founder of the Trinidad and Tobago Fine Cocoa Company, is passionate about maximising the potential of the cocoa industry in Trinidad and Tobago. The young entrepreneur is on a mission to rehabilitate the country's once thriving cocoa sector by developing high quality value-added cocoa products for the national, regional and international markets.

At one time, Trinidad and Tobago was among the world's top five cocoa producers and the country still produces some of the world's premier cocoa beans. The genetic diversity of the trinitario bean is unique and one of the reasons our beans are so highly acclaimed, Parasram explained. The environment is also quite favourable at

At left: Mr Ashley Parasram addresses the attendees at the Launch of TT Fine Cocoa Company Single Estate Chocolates in Harrods; **At right:** His Excellency Tim Stew MBE, High Commissioner for the United Kingdom to Trinidad and Tobago

this time. The impetus to diversify the economy is at a critical stage and the Government of Trinidad and Tobago has targeted the agricultural sector for development and, more specifically, the revitalisation of the cocoa industry to make it internationally competitive and economically viable. Parasram's own vision for the cocoa industry is to develop it into agro - tourism, working with cocoa estates to offer tourists a unique experience and to, one day, transform the country into a premier chocolate destination.

After setting up the country's first cocoa bean processing facility, Mr Parasram and his company have had a positive impact on the industry in Trinidad and Tobago. The company not only produces its own branded line but also collaborates with other estates to help develop their products and brands. The company has made significant progress in recent years. In July 2017, the company received two Silver Awards from the London based Academy of Chocolates for its iconic Steel Pan Tin packaging and for its fine dark chocolate bar. In September 2017, the company also won the Innovator of the Year Award from the Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers Association. The highly successful year climaxed with the launch of the company's Single Estates Chocolates at Harrods, the world famous luxury department store located in Knightsbridge, London.

Parasram indicated recently that the company continues to make progress. The first shipment of chocolate for restaurants and hotels in the United Kingdom was received in early May and will be distributed through King's Fine Foods. They return to Harrods for the 2018 selection in a couple months and a British chocolatier will be on location at the Trinidad Hilton when they open their chocolate shop in September. Parasaram is among a growing list of farmers, producers, entrepreneurs and government officials who remember when "cocoa was king" in Trinidad and Tobago and are striving to return the sector to its former glory.

COURTESY CALL BY HONORARY CONSUL TO NORWAY

Pictured: High Commissioner Orville London and Mr Rolf E. Holmen, Honorary Consul for Trinidad and Tobago in Norway

Mr Rolf E. Holmen, Honorary Consul for Trinidad and Tobago in Norway, paid a courtesy call on High Commissioner Orville London, at the Mission in London, on Friday 3rd November 2017. High Commissioner London who is the non resident Ambassador to Norway, said that Holmen who has represented Trinidad and Tobago in Norway, for the past two decades, was able to provide some valuable insights on issues of mutual interest. It is expected that more discussions will be held with Mr Holmen and the other honorary consuls in Denmark, Finland and Germany, in the upcoming months.

HAMBURG HONORARY CONSUL MEETS HIGH COMMISSIONER

Pictured: High Commissioner Orville London and Mr Howard Kroch, Honorary Consul for Trinidad and Tobago in Hamburg, Germany

Mr Howard Kroch, the Honorary Consul for the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, in Hamburg, Germany met with High Commissioner Orville London at the London Mission, on Friday 18th May. Kroch was in London to attend the annual meeting of the English Speaking Union which has plans to set up a branch in Trinidad and Tobago, in the near future. Kroch has held the position of Honorary Consul for more than eighteen years and he updated the High Commissioner on the environment in Germany and the critical issues, including the opportunities and challenges for Trinidad and Tobago in the German tourism market.

CHOGM 2018 DELIVERABLES

Above: (3rd row, 6th from right) Prime Minister Dr Keith Rowley with other Commonwealth leaders joined The Queen at the formal opening of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting 2018 at Buckingham Palace. **Below**: Prime Minister, Dr the Honourable Keith Rowley arrives at St. James Palace, London for the Prime Minister's Welcome Reception which was held immediately after the formal opening of the CHOGM on April 19th. **Photos: flickr.com/chogm2018**

The 25th meeting of the Commonwealth Heads of Government which concluded in London on 20th April, must be considered a success. Guided by the theme "Towards a Common Future", the leaders of the 53 countries in the Commonwealth were able to achieve consensus on a wide range of issues related to the main goals of Prosperity, Security, Fairness and Sustainability. Although the advantages of the common heritage, the common language and the similar legal and regulatory systems were highlighted throughout all the discussions, participants were sensitive to the special circumstances and challenges of the small states.

The communique released at the end of the Meeting, stated that "Heads recognised that concerted action is required to address the unique challenges and vulnerabilities of small and vulnerable states to ensure their full participation in and contribution to a more prosperous future". According to the release, these small states "continue to suffer disproportionately from diseconomies of scale, external economic shocks and catastrophic climate changes, which significantly and gravely impact their economies and societies". The Heads urged "further action in addressing these challenges, including issues of unsustainable debt, limited access to development financing and other threats posed to their socioeconomic development".

Another area of focus was the exploitation of the Commonwealth advantage in trade. UK Prime Minister Theresa May addressed the issue at the closing press conference when she said "We will play a leading role in shaping global trade policy; this includes stepping up efforts to enable small and developing states to benefit from the growth of free and fair trade. We agreed the critical importance of the full social, economic and political participation of all our citizens for democracy and sustainable development to thrive".

Recognising the critical importance of the health of the ocean, and the dependence of all countries, especially Small Island Developing States (SIDS), on the ocean " for their livelihoods, cultures and traditions", the Leaders of the Commonwealth adopted the Commonwealth Blue Charter which called for "ambitious, coordinated action, while recognising our different abilities, to sustainably manage, protect and preserve our ocean now, for the sake of present and future generations ". Trinidad and Tobago is one of the countries which has enthusiastically endorsed the initiative and has signalled its intention to be one of the Commonwealth Blue Charter Champion "for ocean related issues that are of a high priority to them".

Heads reaffirmed their commitment to Fostering Gender Equality and Inclusion; Strengthening good governance and the rule of law; Tackling the wide range of serious health challenges; Providing Opportunities for at least 12 years of quality education and learning to boys and girls by 2030; Increasing cooperation to combat crime and enhance security, especially with respect to cyber crime, human trafficking, child exploitation, serious and transnational organised

crime, and the urban violence and gun crime which plague many Commonwealth Caribbean countries.

As in previous Meetings, the one week of activities provided opportunities for women, youth and civil society groups to meet and discuss their specific issues but, for the first time this year, representatives had the opportunity to interface directly with the Leaders in what was described by one delegate as " a highly informative and productive session".

The issue of succession of Head of the Commonwealth was settled and the Leaders Statement said,"the next Head of the Commonwealth shall be His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales". The Leaders also agreed that Rwanda will host the next Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in 2020, with Samoa hosting in 2022.

Most leaders would have left the United Kingdom satisfied that most of the major issues had been addressed but very conscious that the achievement of the stated objectives could be frustrated by myriad circumstances over which, many Commonwealth countries, especially those that are smaller and more vulnerable, have no control.

COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING 2018
HEADS OF GOVERNMENT AND HEADS OF DELEGATION LIST

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA
The Hon Gaston BROWNE, Prime Minister

AUSTRALIA
The Hon Malcolm TURNBULL, Prime Minister

BANGLADESH
The Hon Dr Hubert MINNIS, Prime Minister

BARBADOS
Sen the Hon Maxine McCLEAN, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade

BELIZE
The Hon Wilfred ELRINGTON, Minister of Foreign Affairs

BOTSWANA
The Hon Vincent SERETSE, Minister of International Affairs and Cooperation

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM
His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah MU-IZZADDIN WADDAULAH, His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di Pertuan

CAMEROON
Hon Philemon YANG, Prime Minister

CANADA
The Rt Hon Justin TRUDEAU, Prime Minister

CYPRUS
His Excellency Nicos ANASTASIADES, President

DOMINICA
The Hon Roosevelt SKERRIT, Prime Minister

FIJI
The Hon Josaia Voreqe BAINIMARAMA, Prime Minister

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GHANA
His Excellency Nana Addo Dankwa AKUFO-ADDO, President

GRENADA
The Rt Hon Dr Keith MITCHELL, Prime Minister

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MALAWI
His Excellency Arthur MUTHARIKA, President

MALAYSIA
His Excellency Tan Sri S Vigneswaran SANASEE, President Of The Senate

MALTA
The Hon Dr Joseph MUSCAT, Prime Minister

MAURITIUS
The Rt Hon Pravind JUGNAUTH, Prime Minister

MOZAMBIQUE
His Excellency Filipe Jacinto NYUSI, President

NAMIBIA
His Excellency Hage GEINGOB, President

NAURU
His Excellency Baron WAQA, President

NEW ZEALAND
The Rt Hon Jacinda ARDERN, Prime Minister

NIGERIA
His Excellency Muhammadu BUHARI, President

PAKISTAN
The Hon Shahid ABBASI, Prime Minister

PAPUA NEW GUINEA
The Hon Peter O'NEILL, Prime Minister

RWANDA
His Excellency Paul KAGAME President

ST KITTS AND NEVIS
The Hon Dr Timothy HARRIS, Prime Minister

SAINT LUCIA
The Hon Allen CHASTANET, Prime Minister

ST VINCENT AND GRENADINES,
Sir Louis Hilton STRAKER Deputy Prime Minister

SAMOA
The Hon Tuilaepa MALIELEGAOI, Prime Minister

SEYCHELLES
His Excellency Danny FAURE, President

SIERRA LEONE
His Excellency Julius Maada BIO, President

SINGAPORE
The Hon Hsien Loong LEE, Prime Minister

SOLOMON ISLANDS
The Hon Rick HOUENIPWELA, Prime Minister

SOUTH AFRICA
His Excellency Cyril RAMAPHOSA, President

SRI LANKA
His Excellency Maithripala SIRISENA, President

SWAZILAND
The Rt Hon Dr Barnabas Sibusiso DLAMINI, Prime Minister

TONGA
The Hon Samuela POHIVA, Prime Minister

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
The Hon Dr Keith ROWLEY, Prime Minister

TUVALU
The Hon Enele Sosene SOPOAGA, Prime Minister

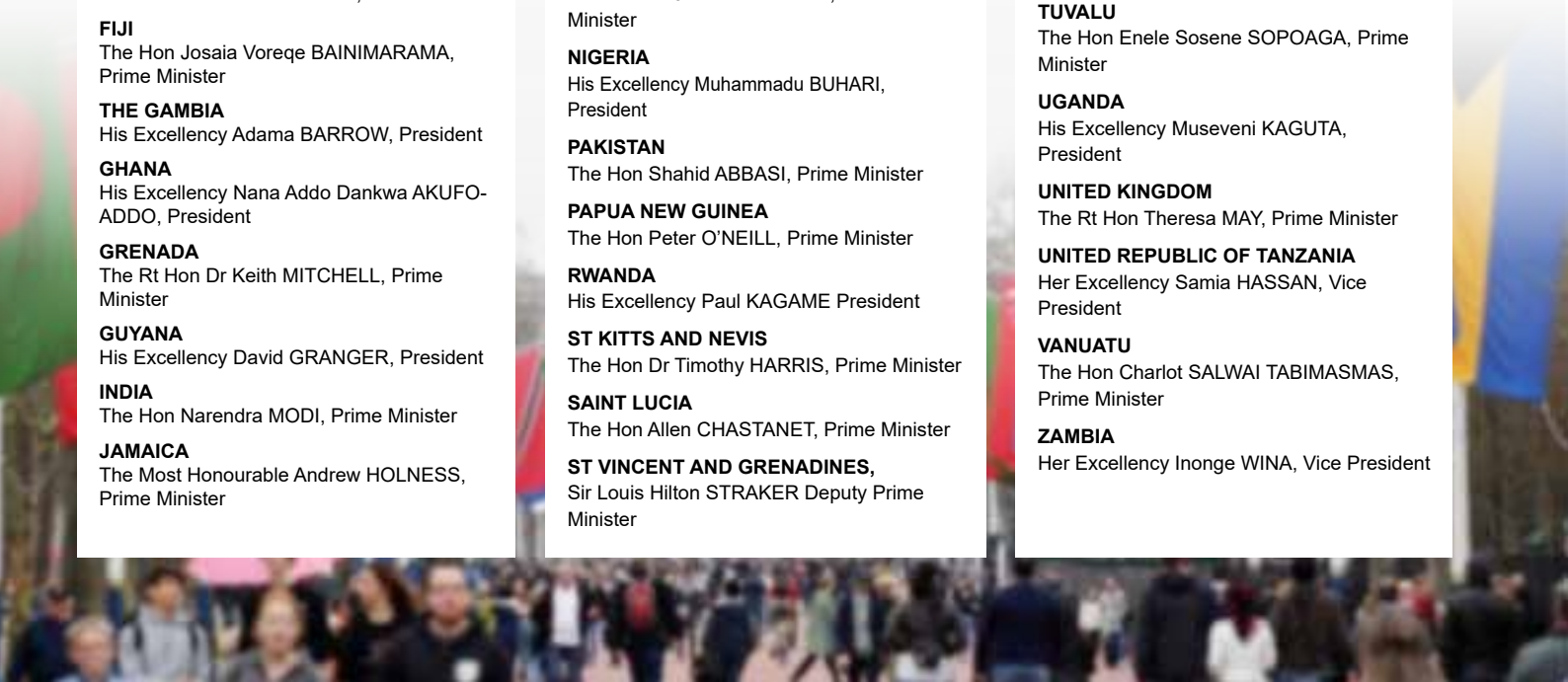
UGANDA
His Excellency Museveni KAGUTA, President

UNITED KINGDOM
The Rt Hon Theresa MAY, Prime Minister

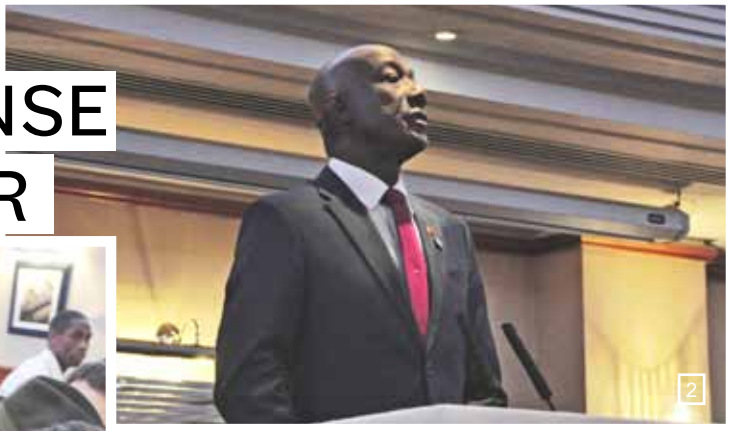
UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
Her Excellency Samia HASSAN, Vice President

VANUATU
The Hon Charlot SALWAI TABIMASMAS, Prime Minister

ZAMBIA
Her Excellency Inonge WINA, Vice President



ENTHUSIASTIC DIASPORA RESPONSE TO PRIME MINISTER



There was an atmosphere of anticipation and excitement when Trinidad and Tobago nationals gathered at the Amba Hotel auditorium in London, for a session with Prime Minister Dr Keith Rowley; and the Prime Minister did not disappoint. He delivered an unscripted but wide ranging address in which he spoke frankly about the challenges facing the country, the strategies that his government had developed to treat with them and the roles that nationals, whether living in Trinidad and Tobago or abroad, could play in addressing the issues.

Accepting that the economy had declined, he noted that public service jobs had not been cut, the Trinidad and Tobago dollar had not been devalued and while the gas subsidy was decreased, nationals were still enjoying subsidies on water and electricity. He stressed the need for diversification and reported that greater emphasis will be placed on tourism, with the two islands being marketed separately. The new Couva hospital could be the catalyst for a thrust into health tourism. The hospital, he said, will offer state of the art care and persons from outside of Trinidad and Tobago could be charged a fee for the services. He urged nationals in the United Kingdom to share their experience and expertise, whether in the health service or in the country's crime fighting efforts.

Concluding his hour long address, the Prime Minister gave members of the Diaspora the assurance that, despite the present challenges, the Trinidad and Tobago flag will continue to be flown with pride, with respect, with dignity and with boundless faith in our destiny. He then fielded questions, for an extended period, on a wide range of topics including crime, health and sport.

This event climaxed a hectic but productive week for Dr Rowley, in the United

1) Prime Minister Dr Keith Rowley is greeted by Trinidad and Tobago nationals at the meeting in the AMBA Hotel**, 2)** Prime Minister Dr Keith Rowley**, 3)** Panist Dexter Marchan and Scratcher Cyril Khamai performed on the evening**, 4)** A portion of the crowd at the meeting with the Prime Minister, **5)** The Hon. Stuart Young, Minister in the Office of the Attorney General and Legal Affairs and Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister, Prime Minister Dr Keith Rowley and HE Orville London, **6 - 9, 11)** a cross section of members of the audience who asked questions during the Prime Minister's Q&A session, and **10)** Immigration Attaché Elston Baird master of ceremony.

Kingdom. A release from the Office of the Prime Minister stated that "in addition to the CHOGM agenda, Dr Rowley also engaged in a series of meetings with energy companies during this period. This, in keeping with Government's thrust towards continued strengthening of Trinidad and Tobago's energy sector. Minister of Energy and Energy Industries, the Honourable Franklin Khan joined the discussions".

The release continued, "while in London, Prime Minister Rowley also took the opportunity to engage in meetings with British officials on matters of national security; engage in bilateral talks with other Commonwealth nations with a view to establishing partnerships that will redound to the benefit of the people of Trinidad and Tobago, as well as meet with representatives of the diaspora who reside in the United Kingdom.

As a direct result of his interaction with the respective Heads of Government, Dr Rowley led a delegation on an official visit to China and a working visit to Australia, shortly after his return to Trinidad and Tobago from the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2018: 'PROGRESS FOR WOMEN AND THE VOTE IN THE COMMONWEALTH'

Photo: thecommonwealth.org

At left: HE Orville London and other members of the Panel which included (L-R) Ms Amelia Kinahoi-Siamomua, Head of the Commonwealth Secretariat's Gender Section, the High Commissioner of New Zealand HE Sir Jerry Mateparae, Dr Helen Pankhurst, CARE International UK's Special Advisor on Gender Equality, The Rt Hon Patricia Scotland QC, Secretary-General of the Commonwealth and HE Yamina Karitanyi, High Commissioner of Rwanda to the UK.

To commemorate International Women's Day celebrated on March 8th, the Commonwealth's Gender Section hosted an event at Marlborough House entitled 'Progress for Women and the Vote in the Commonwealth'. The event – attended by educators, lawyers, policymakers, activists, youth workers and officials of Commonwealth member countries – aimed to celebrate the achievements, determination and courage of women and girls across the Commonwealth in their struggle for democracy, development and peace. It called for absolute gender equality in all spheres and at all levels.

The event was opened by the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, Patricia Scotland, who highlighted the role of the Commonwealth in strengthening the progress for gender quality. "Recognition and advancement of the rights of women is inextricably linked to our Commonwealth priorities of inclusiveness and empowerment, and of social, economic and political development," she said.

The Secretary-General added: "Our campaign towards equal rights for women has resonance with other campaigns against injustice and discrimination – including those against child, early and forced marriage, people trafficking, modern slavery, female genital mutilation, and other forms of sexual or domestic violence."

Her opening remarks were followed by a keynote address by Helen Pankhurst from CARE International, who spoke of the power of merging activism in words and deeds: "1.2 billion women of the Commonwealth remain underrepresented in the political processes. As we move forward in the UK and across the Commonwealth, we need our politicians to be as diverse and reflective of our societies as possible, and also for our procedures to be transparent. We are at our strongest when the voices of those most representing the marginalized and silenced amongst us are centre stage and in the corridors of power," she stated.

The panel included the High Commissioners of New Zealand, Trinidad and Tobago and Rwanda to the UK. They spoke about best practices in their countries that not only provided equal opportunities to women and girls, but also enabled an environment to fully exercise those opportunities without discrimination. The discussion concluded with an informal question and answer session in which the panellists encouraged attendees to carry forward their messages about the way people perceive the roles and rights of women.

T&T TURTLE CONSERVATIONIST LEN PETERS RECEIVES COMMONWEALTH AWARD

Turtle conservationist and chairman of the Grande Riviere Nature Tour Guide Association Len Peters, has been named the 1st Commonwealth Points of Light Award Recipient 2018.

The Points of Light awards is a special series of awards recognising inspiring volunteers from the 52 countries of the Commonwealth.

Peters protects 20,000 turtle nests yearly, and had his work featured on BBC's 'Blue Planet 2' with Sir David Attenborough.

The conservationist was recognised by Queen Elizabeth II and named as the recipient of the award in honour of his exceptional voluntary service protecting endangered turtle species.

The Queen's recognition of Peters' work comes as she offered her thanks to inspirational volunteers across the 52 Commonwealth nations for the difference they are making in their communities and beyond – as part of the lead-up to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in London April 19th-20th.

In making the announcement, the British High Commission said Trinidad and Tobago is now home to one of the densest leatherback nesting beaches in the world, thanks to Peters' educational work in local communities and regular patrols of the country's beaches.

Peters, on receiving the award, is quoted as saying that he was honoured to receive the prize on behalf of the dedicated members of his organisation.

He added that the award recognises many years of dedicated voluntary service performed by him and the members of his community in protecting the environment and creating sustainable livelihoods.

Peters said he hopes that his acceptance of the award would, in some small way inspire others to see the value of voluntary service.

Edited from http://www.looptt.com/content/tt-turtle-conservationist-receives-commonwealth-award

PREPARING FOR THE COMMONWEALTH FAIR 2018

Preparations are on stream for the 2018 Commonwealth Countries League's (CCL) Fair. The Fair is organised by the Commonwealth Countries League (CCL) to assist the Education Fund (CGEF) whose focus is the education of underprivileged girls throughout the Commonwealth. The Fair usually garners support from a number of Commonwealth countries, in addition to related Commonwealth and private organizations. The colourfully decorated stalls reflect the vibrancy and diversity of the Commonwealth and provide visitors with the opportunity to savour the food, the craft, the music and the varied cultures.

HE Perla Perdomo, High Commissioner for Belize, is the newly elected Chairperson for the organisation and a number of decisions were confirmed when she convened the first meeting on Tuesday May 8th. The 2018 Fair is scheduled for the Kensington Town Hall on Saturday 10th November. This year, according to High Commissioner Perdomo, there will be sponsorship packages to encourage the involvement of Missions and business enterprises, at another level. Another addition will be the Rum Tasting Room where a wide range of rums from around the Commonwealth will be made available.

Attractive prizes will be offered in the Grand Raffle and high quality entertainment will also be expected but the main attraction will remain the wide choice of food available. Last year, Trinidad and Tobago's booth promoted and sold many dishes unique to Trinidad and Tobago. These included, for the first time at the Fair, tasty crab and dumpling, corn soup and bake and shark, along with the customary roti, curried chicken, curried potatoes and doubles.

Reports were that all the local dishes were well received by the crowd and were sold out very quickly. The rum punch, fruit punch and alcoholic drinks donated by Wanis Ltd. one of the UK's biggest International Food wholesalers, were top sellers together with KC Confectionery. The tourism items on display also excited interest among the many visitors to the booth.

High Commissioner Orville London said that he was pleased with the Mission's input in 2017 and expected that the Trinidad and Tobago booth will be just as popular and profitable this year.

Clockwise from top left: Mrs Donna Philip-Forde and Ms Rhonda Cox selling rum punch to a patron; Mrs Alicia Johnson prepares corn soup for customer who is enjoying a chicken roti; Mrs Beverley Awonaya and HE Orville London takes orders from patron for the hot foods on sale; and Crab and dumpling with Matouk's Kutchela.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO RENEWS THRUST FOR TOURISM

There is a new Minister at the helm but the implementation of strategies to increase arrivals from the United Kingdom and the rest of Europe will remain among the major priorities of the Ministry of Tourism. Although the numbers have fallen significantly since the record arrivals in 2008, the United Kingdom and Germany are still the country's major markets for leisure tourism. In addition, the Government's thrust towards diversification of the economy, in light of the decline in the energy sector, has highlighted the need to maximise the potential of sectors like tourism and agriculture.

At left: The Honourable Randall Mitchell, Minister of Tourism, Ministry of Tourism; **Above:** The Trinidad and Tobago Delegation, local hoteliers and tour service providers engaging with visitors at the stand at WTM2017; **Below:** (L-R) A representative from Virgin Atlantic, Louis Lewis, Chief Executive Officer, Tobago Tourism Agency, Councillor Nadine Stewart-Phillips, Secretary of Tourism, Culture and Transportation, Tobago House of Assembly, the Honourable Shamfa Cudjoe, Minister of Tourism, Ministry of Tourism and Lizzy Davis, Content Creator, Virgin Atlantic at WTM2017;

The Ministry of Tourism will continue to collaborate with the Tobago House of Assembly in the marketing of the country and new Minister of Tourism Randall Mitchell has confirmed that the two islands will be marketed as separate destinations, with the Tobago House of Assembly responsible for marketing and other tourism related activities in Tobago. The potential of Tobago as a leisure tourism destination is recognised among many of the industry practitioners. The island, according to one travel agent, "has retained its naturalness; the pristine environment, the rich culture and the opportunities to interface directly with the residents in their communities make the island very marketable". He stressed however, that "the industry has become even more competitive in recent years and there is need for an aggressive, but strategic, consistent and focused campaign to market the island in the European market". This, he said, should not exclude the Scandinavian countries whose standard of living is among the highest on the continent.

In recent months, Trinidad and Tobago has continued its thrust into the European market. The then Minister of Tourism, Shamfa Cudjoe, led the country's delegation to the International Trade Bourse (ITB) 2018 in Berlin, Germany from March 17th to 20th when the major focus was on "reassuring the European market that the destination remains open, attractive and ready to do business". According to a release from the Ministry, " ITB is the world's largest tourism trade fair and Trinidad and Tobago's attendance at ITB was important as the Ministry seeks to stimulate and maintain greater awareness of Trinidad and Tobago as a prime tourism destination. Attendance was also critical for firming up plans discussed at the World Travel Market which is usually held in November. After a number of meetings with small and large operators, trade magazines and airlines to examine ways in which partnerships could be established to promote the destination and increase tourist arrivals, Ministry of Tourism officials were convinced that "there is increased awareness and keen interest in Trinidad as a leisure destination, and that the German market remains passionate about Tobago".

An agreement was also finalised with Der Touristik, one of Europe's largest tour operators to host a mega familiarization tour in Trinidad, later this year. The Der Touristik 'Tourism Campus LIVE Caribbean Islands 2018' aims to improve their knowledge on Trinidad and Tobago's products and establish meaningful partnerships in the European market.

The ITB visit followed up on this country's engagement at the World Travel Market (WTM) London, last November when talks about Trinidad and Tobago's hosting of over 100 German travel agents, were initiated. When Minister Cudjoe and Councillor Nadine Stewart-Phillips, Secretary for Tourism, Culture and Transportation in the Tobago House of Assembly visited the 2017 World Travel Market, Cudjoe had highlighted the unique and varied visitor experiences in the twin island republic, while Stewart Phillips had focused on the quality and range of attractions available in Tobago. The Tobago Tourism Authority, the Tobago Hospitality and Tourism Association and other tourism stakeholders were represented and they are expected to return for the 2018 edition of World Travel Market in November when, hopefully, this country's share of the European tourism market will be enhanced.

QUARTERLY NATIONALS MEETINGS WITH THE DIASPORA

REFLECTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS – NOVEMBER 2017

Pictured: A cross section of the nationals who raised points during the Question and Answer segment of the Nationals Meeting.

"Reflections and Recommendations" was the theme when the London Mission hosted its final Nationals Meeting for 2017, at the Mission's headquarters in Belgrave Square, on Wednesday 29th November.

In his address, High Commissioner Orville London described the six months since he assumed office, as "highly rewarding". He commended the officers of the various units at the Mission for their support and guidance and their professional, but sensitive interface with the public.

He also applauded the commitment and capacity of members of the diaspora who had been highly supportive during his stint at the Mission. London praised the achievements and expressed appreciation for the advice of Andrew Ramroop, Ashley Parasram, Ansel Wong, Rudolph Walker, Nigel Guy, Ancel Barclay, Clyde Bacchus and others with whom he intended to continue working, during the New Year.

High Commissioner London urged nationals to collaborate with the Mission in implementing initiatives which could facilitate the utilisation of their skills and resources, to the benefit of Trinidad and Tobago. He also informed of a number of projects on which the High Commission would be embarking in 2018. Included among these projects are the formation of Trinidad and Tobago youth forum whose main objective would be to encourage the involvement of second and third generation nationals in the United Kingdom; expansion of the Nationals database and more focused engagement with nationals, with respect to partnerships and investments in Trinidad andTobago.

During the lively open session, nationals made a number of recommendations, including outreach and community projects in which Trinidad and Tobago nationals could be involved, across the UK; strengthening of the Mission's online presence and the hosting of Nationals Meetings outside of London. High Commissioner London pledged his commitment to "working with the diaspora in the implementation of the recommendations for the New Year" and reiterated the need for closer collaboration among the members of the diaspora and between the diaspora and agencies in Trinidad and Tobago.

The meeting climaxed with brief addresses by artists Karla Cornwall and Ainsley Yearwood whose artwork was on display at the Mission, from Thursday November 23rd to Thursday November 30th.

INFORMATIVE AND INTERACTIVE NATIONALS MEETING – APRIL 2018

The impact of the Windrush Generation on the development of the United Kingdom and the immigration challenges facing them and other members of the diaspora, were highlighted when nationals met in another informative session at the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission, on Wednesday April 25th. Ansel Wong set the stage with a highly informative presentation which focused on the contributions of some of the early arrivals from Trinidad and Tobago, after the World War 11.

Noting that there had been migration of nationals from Trinidad and Tobago, including Henry Sylvester Williams and George Padmore before 1948, Wong said that "the first public recognition of this presence in the United Kingdom of Trinidad and Tobago nationals was the newsreel item on the docking of the Empire Windrush with its almost 500 passengers from Jamaica, including Lord Kitchener who was filmed singing "London Is The Place For Me". This was followed by the appearance at the Festival of Britain by the Trinidad All Steel Percussion Orchestra (TAPSO) and Roaring Lion.

Wong recounted that "eight years later, in 1959, Claudia Jones from Belmont, staged the first London Carnival at St

Pancras Town Hall, complete with Calypsonians, Carnival Queens, Masqueraders and others direct from Trinidad". Trinidad and Tobago's presence, he stated, "was becoming more dominant in London". Wong concluded that, "often referred to as the T&T Diaspora, these individuals with a heritage and parental link to Trinidad and Tobago have made significant contributions to British society and their contributions should be recognised, recorded and celebrated".

Admitting that there have been scores of Trinidad and Tobago nationals who have made outstanding contributions, Wong took the opportunity to highlight Baron Constantine (1901 to 1971), cricketer, administrator, journalist, lawyer and politician; Dame Joycelyn Barrow, founding member and General Secretary of CARD (Campaign Against Racial Discimination), she received the OBE in 1972 for work in the education and community relations and in 1992, she received the DBE for work in broadcasting and her contribution to the work of the European Union; Dr Lakshmi Persaud who has published four novels; Jacque Chan, actor, story teller, director and choreographer; Calypsonian Lord Woodbine who was influential in the development of the Beatles but was never recognised when they became famous and another calypsonian, Egbert Moore (Lord Beginner) who came to the United Kingdom on the Empire Windrush with Lord Kitchener and Lord Woodbine, in 1948.

Interest was further heightened during the presentation by Immigration Lawyer Michelle Beute who updated the packed audience on the issues related to "Undocumented Residents", "Retiring in Trinidad and Tobago on Indefinite Leave to Remain" and "Trinbagonians as Non-VISA nationals visiting the UK". During the highly interactive session, the attorney explained that the situation was still quite fluid but nationals had to be aware of the changing circumstances and seek advice if they were not certain of the legal implications. She stressed that immigration challenges are not confined to the Windrush Generation and persons with Indefinite Leave to Remain status must be sensitised to the possible challenges and the requisite actions that should be taken. Beute advised that, although, Trinidad and Tobago is a Non-Visa country, nationals have been refused entry at the border. Persons who have been refused entry have no recourse and receive no compensation for airfares nor other expenses. Beute led the group through a number of scenarios depicting situations in which nationals have been placed, and during the discussions, it became most evident that it was the responsibility of individuals to know their rights, know their obligations and take appropriate action.

'EMOTIONS IN COLOUR' ART EXHIBITION AT THE HIGH COMMISSION

Two of Trinidad and Tobago's artists residing in the United Kingdom showcased their work entitled EMOTIONS IN COLOUR – a collaboration of Eclectic Artwork by Artists Ainsley Yearwood and Karla Cornwall at a reception held at the High Commission on Thursday 23rd November 2017.

Ainsley Yearwood who has held a number of exhibitions at the High Commission describes his work as "my paintings conceal history, desires, personal experiences and a symbiotic relationship with nature, creating perfect platform for every brush stroke and a viewfinder for life through my mind's eye". Ainsley has held various exhibitions throughout the world, including at the WIPO Headquarters Building in Geneva, The Grand Kipanski Plaza Hotel Dallas, Campbell's of London, The Commonwealth Institute and the Justine's Milan Art Gallery.

Karla Cornwall when asked what inspires her work said that

Above: '*Mannequin made from wool'* by Ms Karla Cornwall with (inset) '*Ni ile Baba mi (In my father's house)'* and *'Metamorphsis'* by Ainsley Yearwood; **At left:** Guests at the reception.

"my inspiration is random, any and everything could inspire me, it depends on how I feel at that precise moment, and this allows me to create from my source". She works mainly with thread and the detail in the piece will determine how fine she prepares the thread. Karla uses tweezers and a special adhesive to apply the thread to her work. When she is creating definition in images, she takes different shades of threads and then cut them up to achieve that degraded effect. She call this technique "thread blending". She had exhibitions at Campbell's of London and other venues in London.

The reception which ran for an entire week, was attended by a number of persons from the art world, members of the diplomatic corps, family and friends.

His Excellency Orville London expressed his delight at hosting such an exhibition and again emphasized his desire to continue promoting the art and culture of Trinidad and Tobago.

Top: Mr Ainsley Yearwood with Jim Mungal and guests in front of artwork - '*Ni ile Baba mi (In my father's house)';* **At left:** HE Orville London, Mrs Gail Cornwall, Ms Karla Cornwall and Mr Egbert Cornwall.

COURTESY CALL BY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AND CARICOM AFFAIRS

Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs Dennis Moses who was a member of the Trinidad and Tobago delegation to the 2018 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in London, took the opportunity to meet with the staff at the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission, on Friday 20th April.

In a brief address, the Minister commented on the challenges facing Trinidad and Tobago, at this time, and the measures being implemented to alleviate the situation. He then fielded questions from staff members. The crime situation in Trinidad and Tobago, relations with Venezuela and policies related to persons returning to Trinidad and Tobago after fighting with terrorist groups, were among the issues raised.

Pictured: High Commissioner Orville London and (front row, 4th from right) the Honourable Dennis Moses Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs with Trinidad and Tobago High Commission Staff members.

T&T'S MANDELA PATRICK WINS PRESTIGIOUS COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN RHODES SCHOLARSHIP

Trinidad and Tobago national Mandela Patrick, a 22 year-old Computer Science major is the winner of the 2018 Commonwealth Caribbean Rhodes Scholarship.

Above: Mandela Patrick (right) is presented with his documentation by Secretary for the Commonwealth Rhodes Scholarship Selection Committee, Peter Goldson, at Government House while Chairman of the Committee, Acting Governor General, Sir Philip Greaves, looks on. **Photo: B.Hinds/BGIS**

He was chosen from a field of nine candidates from Barbados, Dominica, St Lucia, Antigua and Barbuda and The Bahamas. The candidates applied for the scholarship to study at Oxford University, United Kingdom.

Another T&T national Kirin Rambaran was also shortlisted for the scholarship.

The announcement was made in November last year in Barbados by Acting Governor General Sir Philip Greaves, during the official awards ceremony at Government House, Barbados.

Patrick a former student of Naparima College in Trinidad, is currently pursuing his Bachelor's degree in Computer Science at Harvard. He will be pursuing a two-year Masters in Computer Science and Statistics at Oxford University, London, commencing October 2018.

The scholar attributed his success to hard work, time management and commitment, and his parents Raymond and Hyacinth's absolute support and love.

At the end of his course of study, Patrick plans to use his knowledge to transform the Caribbean through technology, in particular education, given his experience with applying machinery at companies such as Facebook and Goldman Sachs and expressed the desire to bring this technology to the region.

At the age of 19, Patrick topped the Caribbean in Mathematics and Information and Communications Technology (ICT).

T&T'S YOUNG LEADERS BENEDICT BRYAN AND JEAN-CLAUDE COURNAND WIN QUEEN'S YOUNG LEADERS AWARD

The Queen's Young Leaders Award recognises and celebrates exceptional people aged 18-29 from across the Commonwealth, who are taking the lead in their communities and using their skills to transform lives. Winners have transformed their communities for the better. From driving change in education, the environment or social equality – to using social media to get their voices heard, these young leaders are proof that no problem is too great to overcome.

Pictured (L-R): Benedict Bryan and Jean-Claude Cournand won the 2018 Queen's Young Leaders in recognition of the work they are undertaking to help change people's lives. **Photos: twitter.com/UKinCaribbean**

Winners of this prestigious Award receive a unique package of training, mentoring and networking, including a one-week residential programme in the UK where they visit Number 10, the BBC and organisations such as Facebook and Oxfam to take part in development activities to help drive their work forward. At the end of the week, a ceremony is held at Buckingham Palace where they collect their Award from Her Majesty The Queen. With this support, Award winners are expected to continue and develop the amazing work they are already doing in their communities.

Benedict Bryan is dedicated to improving social equality in his country. He is the founder of the Humanitarian Association of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago (HARTT), which focuses on providing humanitarian assistance to refugees. Its programmes have included an initiative which taught refugees English and extra-curricular activities to help them integrate into their new culture. Benedict also sits on the committee for the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women in Trinidad and Tobago. Currently, he is working alongside other young people throughout the Caribbean to launch a Youth Peace and Security Think Tank, the aim of which is to promote peace and security for all, especially for those from minority backgrounds.

Jean-Claude Cournand founded the 2 Cents Movement, which uses spoken-word poetry to raise awareness of social issues and to encourage young people to address them. Jean-Claude and his team, which includes 12 young people and 10 poets, has led workshops and performances at more than 70 secondary schools and 30 primary schools. In 2017, the team's focus was on gender-based violence, so Jean-Claude partnered with the University of the West Indies Institute for Gender and Development Studies to train poets on the issues, before they took their messages into schools. The group has also hosted two annual national spoken-word events in which 25 secondary and 17 primary schools participated. Each year more than 40,000 young people in Trinidad and Tobago engage with the programme.

T&T'S JONATHAN BARCANT WINS THE CARIBBEAN & AMERICAS COMMONWEALTH YOUTH AWARDS

Jonathan Barcant, founder of "Vetivier Education and Empowerment Unit", took the award for the most innovative project in the Caribbean and Latin American Region when the Youth Forum held its Awards function during the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in London, on Wednesday April 18th. The awards recognise young people whose innovative projects have had a significant impact on their communities and Barcant impressed with his project which "delivers a penetrating root system to stabilise land, preventing erosion and slowing down water run-off" and which was described as "cost-effective bio-engineering scheme to build climate change resilience".

The young entrepreneur who paid a courtesy call on High Commissioner Orville London at the London Mission on Thursday April 18th, said that one of his organisation's primary goals is for "Trinidad and Tobago to pioneer and become leaders on a model that can help the Caribbean, in terms of climate adaptation". He said that the "Vetevier Education and Empowerment Project (VEEP) was completed in Paramin, in 2017 and is a powerful model for building the resilience of communities to extreme rainfall/weather, as a means of Climate Adaptation".

Pictured: (L-R) Jonathan Barcant (Trinidad and Tobago), Usman Iftikhar (Australia), Sherifah Tumusiime (Uganda) and Vanessa Paranjothy (Singapore). **Photos: commonwealth.org**

The system involves the correct implementation methods of vetevier grass which, because of its deep and fibrous root system (10 feet in 1 to 2 years), is a powerful tool to stabilise land and prevent slippage and erosion, and in turn, protect roads, homes and other infrastructure. The system is not only green and cost effective but rural communities can develop the expertise quite easily. Barcant indicated that "its use for handicraft making (baskets, mats, chairs, root bundles) make it interesting from an economic standpoint to persons involved in these trades".

He said that the "Vetevier Education and Empowerment Unit stands ready and eager to collaborate with any organisations in Trinidad and Tobago which will like to introduce the programme in their districts".

HAZEL BROWN HONOURED AT COMMONWEALTH PEOPLE'S FORUM IN CHOGM

Prominent Trinidad and Tobago social activist Hazel Brown was honoured by the Commonwealth People's Forum, during the 2018 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in London. Brown who attended the first People's Forum held in Harare in 1991, is the only person to have participated in all thirteen People's Forums, since then.

Speaking with High Commissioner Orville London, during a courtesy call at the London Mission on Friday April 20th, Brown noted that there were over 350 Civil Society Organisations represented at this year's activities. The theme for the 2018 Forum was "Inclusive Governance: The Challenge for a Contemporary Commonwealth" and according to Brown, it was the first occasion on which the participants had the opportunity to interact directly with Heads of Government. She lauded the dynamic nature of the interaction and noted that the relationship between Commonwealth Governments and Civil Society had evolved significantly, over the years.

Pictured: High Commissioner Orville London with Hazel Brown

Brown said that she will not be participating in any future People's Forum but expressed the confidence that the younger representatives had the capacity and the commitment to take the critical issues to the next level.

RELIEF FOR WINDRUSH GENERATION

Pictured: The Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP, Home Secretary of the United Kingdom and HE Orville London at headquarters of the Home Office in London. **Photos courtesy UK Home Office**

All categories of persons adversely affected by the decisions and actions of the UK Home Office, should obtain relief and, most likely redress, in upcoming months. After the tumult of an intense campaign which involved the Caricom High Commissioners in the United Kingdom, members of both Houses of Parliament, special interest groups and the media houses, Prime Minister Theresa May stated that she "deeply valued the contribution made by the Windrush generation and all Commonwealth citizens who had made a life in the UK, and that the UK government would ensure the correct support was in place to give people certainty about their existing rights". Admitting that they were treated "appallIngly", she assured further, "that the UK government had given an absolute commitment to do whatever it takes including, where appropriate, payment of compensation, to avoid the anxieties and problems which some of the Windrush Generation have suffered".

Immediately after her announcement, a series of measures were rolled out to treat with the myriad challenges experienced by those whose lives had been disrupted and, even destroyed by the decisions and actions of the Home Office. Many of the victims had been unable to access health care, schooling, pension benefits or even their bank accounts; some had lost their jobs, their homes, their quality of life and their dignity, but almost overnight, the scenario changed.

The then Home Secretary Amber Rudd announced that members of the Windrush generation who arrived before 1973, will be eligible for free citizenship. The offer was extended to "those who have no current documentation, those who already have Leave to Remain, and want to advance their status, and children of the Windrush generation". Rudd also confirmed that "a compensation scheme will be set up for persons who suffered loss or damage because of their inability to evidence their right to be in the UK and to access service". Experienced case workers were assigned to customer contact centres to offer advice and provide guidance. Fees associated with a citizenship application were waived and persons were not required to pass the Knowledge of Language and Life in the UK test.

The Home Office also committed to facilitate their return and waive any associated fees for "those who arrived before 1973, spent their life in the UK and are now having difficulty returning, either for a visit or to reside". Persons in this category who are residing in Trinidad and Tobago, have been advised to contact the British High Commission for information and assistance.

The new Home Secretary, Sajib Javid who took up the position after the resignation of Amber Rudd, met with Caricom High Commissioners on Thursday May 10th, to "provide further reassurance of the Home Office's continued commitment to dealing with the Windrush issue". He indicated that, up to that time, the dedicated task force had received over 3000 calls and 400 persons had received documentation. He also confirmed that the issue of the compensation plan will be treated in a highly transparent manner. A call for evidence will be issued and persons will be allowed the opportunity to tell how they will be affected, before the Government considers and makes a final decision. An independent oversight committee has been appointed to monitor all aspects of the process. The Home Secretary also committed to update High Commissioners on any outstanding issues, including the status of children born to the original Windrush arrivals.

Home Office

We know that some people who arrived in the UK before 1973 may have been unable to confirm their status in the UK.

If you think you have been affected by this please get in touch with the Home Office who can help to confirm your status.

We have set up a dedicated unit at the Home Office to support you through the process of confirming your status.

Freephone: 0800 678 1925
Monday to Saturday 9am to 5pm
Sunday 10am to 4pm
Email:
commonwealthtaskforce@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

FAREWELL TO MR SHERWIN JOHNSON IMMIGRATION ATTACHÉ

On 11th May, 2018, the High Commission bid farewell to Mr. Sherwin Johnson who served as Immigration Officer from 17th April, 2015. During his stint at the London Mission, his main responsibility was the interviewing of applicants and the processing of applications for the machine readable passport. When asked about his most memorable experiences during his time at the High Commission, he revealed that it was when applicants expressed appreciation, after receiving their passports. He said,"I felt proud that I was able to do something to help someone". Mr Johnson stated further, that everyone deserves a fair opportunity "especially those who do not have anyone else to help them". He stressed that he tried his best to treat everyone fairly and to be professional at all times.

In his address at the farewell function hosted at the Mission, High Commissioner Orville London commended Johnson for three years of unstinting service. He commented on his capacity "to be professional yet affable" and his positive impact on the image of the Immigration Unit and the entire Mission.

Mr Johnson's immediate supervisor Elston Baird and other colleagues were equally complimentary as they recalled their relationship with him and wished him success in the next chapter of his life.

Top: High Commissioner London; Mr Elston Baird Immigration Attaché (second from right) and TTHC Immigration Staff members flank both sides of Mr Sherwin Johnson, Immigration Attaché.
At right: Mr Sherwin Johnson, Immigration Attaché receiving a farewell token from staff member, Hannah Holman.

HIGH COMMISSIONER LONDON AT OXFORD UNIVERSITY

Pictured: High Commissioner Orville London with some of the Oxford University Students. **Photo courtesy Andre Blackburn**

Trinidad and Tobago High Commissioner to the United Kingdom Orville London was at Oxford University on Tuesday May 1st, when he addressed a number of postgraduate students, at the University's Latin America Unit. The High Commissioner's one hour address on "Caribbean Prospects in Latin America: A Trinidad and Tobago Perspective", was followed by what was described as "a highly interactive question and answer segment".

Speaking after the event, His Excellency said that it was a very gratifying experience and he was heartened by the level of interest engendered among the participants. He said that "I was also pleased to meet some of our outstanding young academics who are pursuing postgraduate studies at the prestigious institution".

Among the Trinidad and Tobago students who attended the session were Rhodes Scholars Kiron Neaves and Simone Delzin; President's Medal recipient Jamelia Harris and Oxford University Scholarship winners Nirvana Sookdeo and Andre Blackburn. Dr Diego Anochea - Director of the Latin American Centre and Professor Eduardo hPoada - History Lecturer, were also in attendance.

COMMONWEALTH LUNCH AT ST MARY'S CHURCH

Submitted by **LYNDA DALE**

In April 2018 the Commonwealth Summit Meetings saw leaders join together in London to discuss the challenges we all face and how we can all work together towards a much more prosperous secure and sustainable future for all citizens within our Commonwealth.

The Meetings saw leaders working towards the following issues:

- The fight against Malaria which kills many many people.
- The Blue Charter to rid our oceans of plastic pollution.
- Queen's Commonwealth Canopy.

All 53 countries have pledged to plant more trees and preserve forested areas. Our Canopy is Epping Forest and more trees will be planted.

The aim is to leave a positive lasting legacy for future generations. Our Government alongside the Eden Project and the Churches Conservation Trust (CCT) asked for 53 CCT churches to represent 53 commonwealth countries to hold Big Lunches and join people together.

St Mary's Church Stansted chose to represent the two Caribbean sister islands of Trinidad and Tobago and our Big Lunch took place on Sunday 22nd April which was the last day of the Summit Meetings. With various curry dishes including goat, chicken and chickpea and spinach accompanied by rice and peas and roti salads and various 'chow' dishes over 50 people were fed inside the church together as a big family.

The rum punch flowed, the Calypso and steel pan music played and we were so lucky that the sun shone too!! We fed over 50 people with various Trinidadian dishes. Thank you once again for your help with the posters and maps.

SPORTS

T&T ATHLETES CREATE HISTORY AT THE GOLD COAST 2018 COMMONWEALTH GAMES

MICHELLE LEE AHYE

Trinidad and Tobago's national double sprint champion Michelle Lee Ahye was crowned the fastest woman in the Commonwealth after crossing the finish line in 11.14 seconds in the Women's 100m Final on April 9th at the Carrara Stadium, Austraila. Jamaicans Christina Williams took silver in 11.21 seconds with her compatriot Gayon Evans grabbing bronze in 11.22 seconds.

Ahye created history by becoming the first woman from Trinidad and Tobago to ever win a Commonwealth Gold medal in the 100m Sprint event making it Trinidad and Tobago's 9th Commonwealth Gold medal. Ato Boldon won Gold in the 1998 Commonwealth Games Men's 100m Final. Boldon still holds the Games record of 9.88 seconds.

JEREEM RICHARDS

World Champion bronze medallist Jereem 'the Dream' Richards took the men's 200 metres title following Zharnel Hughes' disqualification in the Commonwealth Games at the Carrara Stadium, Austraila. Both men crossed the line in 20.12 seconds, with Hughes given the victory in a photo-finish. Hughes was disqualified for a lane infringement leading to him to collide with Richards, causing the pair to stumble.

Richards was promoted to the gold medal, with Brown and Northern Ireland's Leon Reid completing the podium in times of 20.34 seconds and 20.55 seconds respectively.

DYLAN CARTER

On Friday 6th April, Dylan Carter wrote his name in the record books, becoming the first swimmer from Trinidad and Tobago to win a medal at the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games. He won Silver in the Men's 50m Butterfly at Optus Aquatic Centre in Gold Coast, Australia.

Carter touched the wall in 23.67 seconds, missing the gold by .30 of a second. South African Chad Le Close won in 23.37 seconds, with his compatriot Ryan Coetzee in 23.73 seconds finishing third.

With Dylan's silver medal triumph, Trinidad and Tobago's final tally at The Games was two gold and one silver.

DEON LENDORE WINS BRONZE AT IAAF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Pictured: From left, T&T's bronze medalist Deon Lendore, Czech Republic's gold medalist Pavel Maslak and United States' silver medalist Michael Cherry pose during the medal ceremony for the men's 400-metre final at World Indoor Championships. **Photo: AP**

Trinidad and Tobago's runner Deon Lendore won the country's first medal at the IAAF World Indoor Championships when he earned bronze in 46.37 seconds in the men's 400m event in Birmingham, England. It was the second successive bronze medal for Lendore at the World Indoor Championships after he copped bronze at the 2016 IAAF World Indoor Championships in Oregon, USA.

Pavel Maslak of Czech Republic won gold in 45.47 seconds and Michael Cherry of the USA took silver in 45.84.

Oscar Husillos of Spain and Luguelin Santos of the Dominican Republic, both finished ahead of Lendore were disqualified for lane infringements. As a result, Lendore moved up to third place.

In the men's 4x400m final, the T&T quartet of Renny Quow, Jereem Richards, Machel Cedenio and Lalonde Gordon missed bronze by .02 of a second in the final event. The T&T's 4x400m relay team placed fourth in the time of 3:02.52, finishing behind the Belgium 4x400m relay team who placed third in a time of 3:02.51.

CHACONIA GOLD MEDALS FOR THE IAAF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP RELAY SQUAD

After their scintillating performance at the 2017 IAAF World Championship at the Olympic Stadium in London, the members of the T&T men's 4x400 metres relay team were honoured with Trinidad and Tobago's second highest national award, the Chaconia Gold.

The team of Renny Quow, Jareem Richards, Machel Cedenio, Jarrin Solomon and Lalonde Gordon upset strong favourites, the United States, to take the gold in a time of 2:58.12 seconds.

Pictured: From top left, Renny Quow, Jareem Richards, Machel Cedenio, Jarrin Solomon, Lalonde Gordon and the Chaconia Gold. **Photo: AP**

THE MISSION CONGRATULATES MBE HONOREE LESLIE PALMER

At left: HRM Queen Elizabeth presenting the Member of the British Empire to Leslie Palmer, **At right:** Leslie Palmer MBE with his daughter Michelle Palmer-Keizer and grandson Jon Mycal Palmer. **Photos: British Ceremonial Arts**

Trinbagonian national Leslie Palmer has been awarded the Member of the British Empire (MBE) Honour by Queen Elizabeth II, for services to the modern Notting Hill Carnival. Palmer, who always had a passion for community and Caribbean culture, left a teaching career in 1973 to head the West Indian Carnival Committee from 1973 to 1975, during which time he created the template for the carnival that would become world famous as the Notting Hill Carnival.

A reception open to the Notting Hill community was held later that evening with performances by calypsonian D'Alberto and the Portobello Live Choir, amongst other local talent.

Leslie Palmer is also the founder of London's Notting Hill Carnival Pioneer's Festival, now in its third year of operation.

T&T'S STEPHEN CHRISTOPHER AMONG SANDHURST CADETS IN SOVEREIGN'S PARADE

Stephen Michael Jeron Christopher was among the 25 International Cadets who officially completed their training stints when the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst hosted its 2017 Sovereign's Parade on Friday December 15th. A total of 202 cadets were involved in the "pass out" ceremony and were addressed by Prince Harry who recounted some of his memories and experiences when he went through the rigorous programme at Sandhurst, almost a decade before. Prince Harry told the cadets that the Sandhurst experience will have strengthened them and they had a responsibility to live up to the high standards of the institution.

Pictured: High Commissioner Orville London with (L-R) Captain (N) Hiram Mohammed, Defence Attaché and Stephen Christopher

Those sentiments were supported by Christopher when he met with Trinidad and Tobago High Commissioner Orville London and Defence Attaché Captain Hiram Mohammed, after the ceremony. Christopher said that, although he was looking forward to returning home, he was appreciative of the quality of the training and the varied experiences to which he was exposed. He said that he was eager to utilise all that he had gained at Sandhurst, in the service of his country.

DOVE IN THE COCOA SECTOR

Above: High Commissoiner Orville London congratulating Duane Dove, of Tobago Cocoa Estates Ltd, for his recent award of World Gold for the "Laura bar" at the International Chocolate Awards. **Below:** A selection of all Tobago Estates chocolates products and Rose Hill Cocoa Estate new chocolate bar. **Photos: www.tobagococoa.com**

Duane Dove, owner of the Tobago Estate, dubbed as the local "Cocoa King", continues to expand his interest in, and influence on the cocoa industry in Trinidad and Tobago. Dove who has been marketing the products from his Tobago Estates plantation which he acquired in 2005, primarily in Europe, has now partnered with cocoa farmers in the hills of Tamana Mountain to produce Rose Hill Estate Chocolate Bars. Under the arrangement, Dove purchases the cocoa from the farmers at above normal market price and he then sends the beans to an American chocolatier with whom he collaborates, in making the chocolate. The Rose Hill Estate Chocolate has only recently hit the market in Germany, Sweden, Denmark and a limited area in the United States but Dove is hoping that the success will emulate that of his Tobago Estates Chocolate. The Tobago Estates was the first Caribbean based company to win a gold award at the European Bar Competition in Amsterdam and there have been other successes, over the years.

Despite his experience and those successes, the competition remains intense and the environment challenging but Dove's work ethic and his innovative spirit instill confidence that there are more triumphs ahead. These qualities were exemplified at the Tobago Estates Plantation, in Roxborough, Tobago, where he did not confine his activities only to cocoa production. The estate began offering tours for visitors, teaching them about the different varieties of cocoa, coffee, mango and soursop on the plantation. Gazebos overlooking the Atlantic ocean invited guests to take a seat and embrace the sea breeze. Then, in his latest venture, he used his knowledge of spirits and chocolate to make his mark in another industry: ice cream. Dove partnered with Hansens, a Danish artisanal ice cream company, to produce pints of hand-crafted Rum and Chocolate ice cream. This is not their first product made with Tobago Estate Chocolate cocoa beans, though. Their first collaboration was the Tobago Eskimo, a chocolate-covered ice cream popsicle. He hopes their products will attract more visitors to Trinidad and Tobago. Both are only sold in Scandinavia at the moment, but Dove looks forward to bringing them home soon.

Dove is not unmindful of the present challenges. In a recent interview, he noted that climate change is threatening the cocoa industry in a big way. He stated further that extra precipitation in the rainy season had affected cocoa production and the extra rain can lead to fungus and diseases. Despite the uncertain future, Dove remains committed to the revival of the cocoa industry. He is convinced, however that, for the industry to develop, it must continue to make inroads in the International market as "there are so many local artisans making chocolate that they have reached their ceiling in the local market".

http://www.looptt.com/content/foodie-focus-rosehill-cocoa-estate-launches-new-chocolate-bar

TTHC LONDON BIDS FAREWELL TO CAPTAIN MOHAMMED, DEFENCE ATTACHÉ

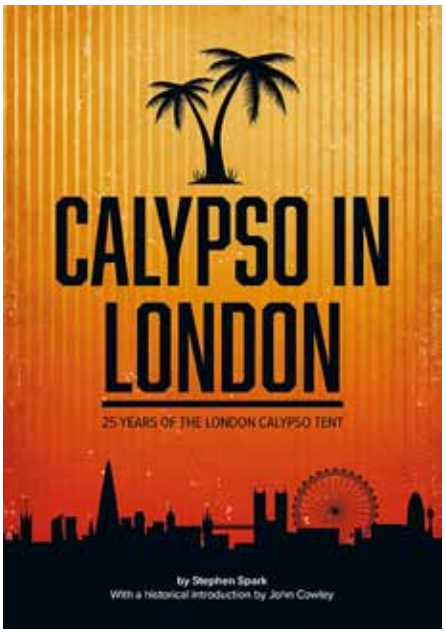
The High Commission in March bid farewell to Captain Hiram Mohammed, Defence Attaché who returned home to continue his service to the Government of Trinidad and Tobago.

Captain Hiram joined the High Commission in March 2015 from the Ministry of National Security. Having enlisted into the military on 8th June 1983, Captain Mohammed holds the distinction of being the only enlisted person in the Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard to have attained the rank.

We thank him for his service at the High Commission and wish him the very best!

Pictured: Capt (N) Hiram Mohammed, Defence Attaché

ASSOCIATION OF CALYPSONIANS UK LAUNCH '*CALYPSO IN LONDON*' COMMEMORATIVE BOOK



Pictured: Calypso in London - 25 Years of the London Calypso Tent book cover

In celebrating the 25th anniversary (Silver Jubilee) of the London Calypso Tent, the Association of Calypsonians UK (formerly Association of British Calypsonians, ABC) launched a commemorative book at a special event at the Tabernacle, Powis Square, London W11, on Thursday 26th October 2017. The launch event included historic DVD footage of past events, talks on calypso's extraordinary history, live calypso performances and an exhibition of photographs of the London Tent's stars.

The attractive illustrated book not only includes the history of the Tent from 1992 to 2017, but also takes a backwards glance at the pioneering days of the 1960s to 80s. Renowned historian John Cowley (author of Carnival, Canboulay and Calypso) points out in his introduction that calypsonians were present in Britain 100 years ago and were active in the late 1930s.

To the best of ACUK's knowledge, this is the first book that has ever been published solely on London's calypso heritage. Back in 2005, Ashton Moore, known to generations of London calypso-lovers as the Mighty Tiger, former president of the Association of British Calypsonians, proposed putting on a small exhibition at the old Yaa Asantewaa Centre London of some of the photographs the author had been taking over the past ten years.

Calypso in London also has short profiles of ABC/ACUK members past and present, a descriptive glossary and an appendix listing the Tent's many Calypso Monarchs and Groovy Soca Monarchs. The book will appeal to diehard calypso fans and carnivalists, students of Black history, academics and anyone interested in the music of the Caribbean diaspora.

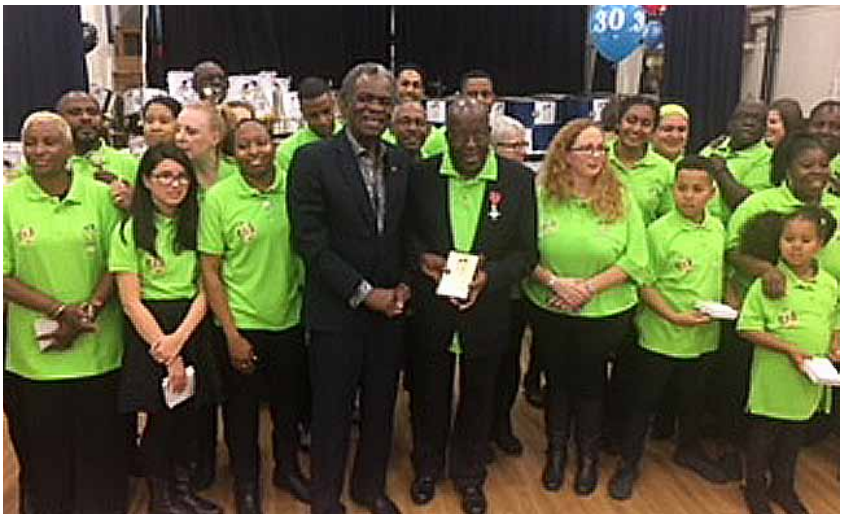
Calypso in London is just one part of a larger and longer project to record calypso's history in the capital, and includes calypso-writing workshops, oral history sessions, a new website (www.acukheritage.co.uk) with an online 'virtual' archive, plus an exciting collaboration with the London Metropolitan Archives (facebook.com/londonmetropolitanarchives/) that will ensure the best of London's calypso heritage is preserved for future generations to enjoy.

For a copy of Calypso in London - 25 Years of the London Calypso Tent by Stephen Spark with a historical introduction by John Cowley please visit: http://www.acukheritage.co.uk/product/calypso-in-london/

edited from http://socanews.com/news/celebration-time-for-calypso-in-britain/

MELODIANS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

THE UK based Melodians Steel Orchestra continue to earn rave revues as they take steelpan music to various arenas throughout the world. The latest plaudits came from Neil Holland, Chief of Protocol and Vice Marshall of the Diplomatic Corps, after Melodians performed during the recent Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. In thanking the players for their "enthusiastic participation" at the Foreign Secretary's reception and dinner at the Royal Aeronautical Society, Holland noted that "the feedback from our visitors and our senior UK colleagues about this event and the Summit in general was overwhelmingly



Pictured: HE Orville London with Terry Noel MBE and Melodians Steel Orchestra. **Photos courtesy Terry Noel MBE**

positive. We could not have achieved what we did without the energy, commitment and enthusiasm of our stakeholder".

The members have taken steelband music to over 30 countries and have performed at numerous Royal functions, over the years. The band is now based at the Henry Cavendish School where students at various levels have been exposed to the only musical instrument invented in the twentieth century.

Late last year, the band celebrated its 30th anniversary with a well attended concert at the Henry Cavendish School, Hydethrope Road, London where the specially invited guests included Mayor of Lambeth, Councillor Maria Cameron and High Commissioner for Trinidad and Tobago, Orville London. In his address, High Commissioner London lauded Terry Noel for "his vision, his resilience and his commitment to excellence". He also commended the band members for "their outstanding achievements over such an extended period, despite the challenges, the frustrations and the setbacks that they would have faced". He noted that it was significant that the Melodians Steel Orchestra was now based at a primary school and opined that "this could ensure that three decades from today, patrons will continue to be delighted by the sounds of the steel drum".

The band which also provided music during the London Fashion Week Isa Arden show in February of this year, leaves the United Kingdom next month for engagements in Minsk, the capital of Belarus. These include a collaboration with a local Jazz Orchestra and a Steelpan Workshop with local children. When they return to the United Kingdom, their next major engagement would be Art Night 2018, when they will be collaborating with Turner Prize winning artist Jeremy Deller for the second time.

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE – THE 19TH ANNUAL BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF STEEL BANDS AWARDS

Top: Ebow Mensah recieving his award for Pan Clash Soloist (Over 16)
At left: Nostalgia Steel Band with the Best Traditional Steel Band Award

The 19th Annual British Association of Steelbands' (BAS) Awards was hosted at the Holiday Inn, Bloomsbury, on December 2nd. The BAS Awards recognises and honours the contributions of individuals, groups and organisations to the promotion of steel pan music, culture and heritage throughout the UK. Since its inception, the event has grown in prominence and provides the steelband community with an opportunity to reflect on the past, cherish the present and plan for the future.

The evening offered a lavish Caribbean buffet, music from pan soloist Leon Foster Thomas backed by The Engine Room, dancing and DJs.

RASPO Steel Orchestra leader Mary-Venetia Genis won the British Association of Steelbands Hall of Fame Lifetime Achievement Award. The Hall of Fame Lifetime Achievement Award is the Association's highest accolade presented in recognition of sustained and continuous work over many years promoting steel pan, and inspiring and leading others.

The following Awards were presented on the night:

Below: Ebony Steel Band award for UK Junior Steel band Panorama. **Photos: Robbie Joseph /Pan Podium**

Pan Clash Soloist (under 16): Lola Peach
Pan Clash Soloist (Over 16): Ebow Mensah
Calssorama Primary School: Harris Primary Academy School Coleraine Park
Calssorama Seconday School: Kingsdale Foundation School
Best Youth Steel Band: Ebony Steel Band and St Michael and All Angels Steel Orchestra
UK Junior Steel Band Panorama: Ebony Steel Band
Cyrstal Gail Holder Competition: Ashley Gateson
Jouvert Bomb Competition: Ebony Steel Band
Best Traditional Steel Band: Nostalgia Steel Band
Best Conventional Steel Band: St Michael and All Angels Steel Orchestra
UK National Steel Band Panorama: Ebony Steel Band
Outstanding Achievement Award: Jacqueline Roberts
BAS Hall of Fame Lifetime Achievement: Mary-Venetia Genis

SOUTH TRINIDAD HAS INDEED PROVIDED THE PAN WORLD WITH A LIVING LEGEND...

Pictured: Cyril Khamai
Photos courtesy Haroun N Shah

South Trinidad has indeed provided the pan world with a living legend in the person of Cyril Khamai who today continues to play pan/percussion and is one of the most recognised figures at London's Notting Hill Carnival (NHC).

At six years Cyril was already hammering out musical notes on empty tin cans to play nursery rhymes. This was equivalent in notation to the very first pans, designated a 'ping pong', hence Cyril grew up at the earliest stages of experimentation of creating music on discarded biscuit tins/oil drums.

Cyril was just fifteen when he began playing pan on the road at carnival. In the mid-1940s steelpan was viewed as a past time of the mostly unemployed and was associated with violence and crime. In this climate Cyril, who came from a family with very strict religious and moral ethics was captivated by the sound of the 3 note ping pong and percussion bands and decided at such an early stage that this is what he wished to pursue as a lifelong career and, even up to day, continues to play and promote this magnificent instrument.

While major developments were taking place in Port of Spain, Cyril claims there was very active movement between both towns and some of the most ground-breaking developments in pan came from the south. Cinemas such 'Gaiety', 'New', 'Empire', and 'Rivoli' and Skinner's Park were popular venues where Cyril attended and also participated in steelpan concerts which sometimes included North vs South competitions.

His first band, "Wake Island" came out for carnival in 1946 and comprised biscuit drums, dudups (2 notes), iron and 3 note ping pongs that had the notes "C, D and E". These were the forerunners of the today's 'engine room' and would indulge percussion continuously for hours. Cyril said he was always intrigued by how these groups punctuated these sessions with untimed stops that allowed the ping pong to come in and play part of a recognised tune such as 'Mary had a little lamb' after which the percussion immediately took over again. Later an "F and G" were added, the "G" being needed for one note in this nursery rhyme. This saw the arrival of the 5-note ping pong, labelled the "Tenor kettle" which was crafted in both towns.

Cyril recalls "panmen would have different pans for different tunes, but they were only able to play parts of a particular tune on each pan". This frustrated him and in 1947, he joined San Fernando's best known band 'Free French'. Another band, on the opposite side of Coffee Street called "Destroyers", heard Cyril play at Free French and quickly recruited him to support their development. Cyril replaced all their pans with new ones that he made and also persuaded them to change their image; he renamed the band 'Melody Markers'. This was the opportunity Cyril long awaited; viz. being given a free reign to pursue his ambition and he immediately began a period of intense exploration. Each time he attempted a new tune that lacked a note, a 'new' note was created to the basic tenor pan.

One day the aspiring brass musician, Watty Watkins visited Melody Markers in 1950 and was astonished to see that Cyril had a pan that "could play any tune". He said to Cyril "this is the first fully chromatic pan I have seen in Trinidad". Cyril said he had no idea what was a chromatic pan, he just knew he had a pan with 23 notes that had a musical scale with twelve pitches, each a semitone above or below its adjacent pitches. Cyril stayed with the band between 1949 -1951 and continued to experiment.

He left Trinidad in 1957 for the UK. After returning from an European tour Cyril linked up with Nostalgia for Notting Hill carnival which was then in its infancy. Cyril from this period never confined himself to a single band but as double tenor pan player, the single pans of Nostalgia saw him playing more percussion for NHC and particularly a scratcher which led to the fun sobriquet, 'Scratcher Man'.

Cyril was part of the Nostalgia contingent that played at the Opening Ceremony of the London Olympics on Friday 27th July at the Olympic Stadium to an audience of sixty-two thousand persons.

Cyril's remarkable and enduring years as a pan tuner, pan pioneer, inventor, arranger, teacher, pannist, percussionist and even a limbo dancer will see him in Steelpan's history books as a leader among many. His greatest invention was a double tenor

Above: Cyril coaching the youngest members of Nostalgia Steelband prior to their visit to play during the carnival celebrations in Trinidad in February 2018.

pan which he played throughout his career.

Cyril's pioneering work in developing the steelpan prior to his departure from Trinidad in 1957 and his association with Britain's oldest steelband, Nostalgia was recognized on 13th January 2018 in the form of a concert/party tribute titled "Nice One Cyril" Carnival Village Trust (Tabernacle).

In a mural dedicated to street performers of NHC in Ladbroke Grove, British artist/pan player, Fiona Hawthorne captures Cyril as 'Scratcher Man", while calypsonian Alexander D Great immortalises him as part of his calypso "Unsung Heroes" (2017; link https://itunes.apple.com/us/album/unsung-heroes-single/1279350647) and another specifically dedicated to him, titled "Nice One Cyril" (2018). He has had numerous interviews including a BBC documentary in 2014 which covered part of his life at NHC.

As Haroun Shah, Co-Chair, Nostalgia Steelband, said 'Steelpan legends, such as Cyril Khamai are living museums and provide a unique window into the past.

UK BASED ENTREPRENEUR SET TO RETURN TO T&T

Pictured: (L-R) Denis St. Bernard, wife Anita (middle), flanked by guests and son Stephen (far right) at the Archway B&B. **Photo courtesy Denis St Bernard | Archway Guesthouse**

Denis St. Bernard, former national youth cricketer and national body building champion, has plans to return to Trinidad and Tobago to share his experience and expertise with groups and individuals in the country. Since leaving Trinidad and Tobago three decades ago, St Bernard has focused mainly in the area of Business Development, and functions as a Consultant in the Insurance, Risk and Security Industry, International Business Facilitation Services and Hospitality Industry. His specialities include Business Networking and Business Development in emerging markets.

He said that "I was heartened by a recent release from the Trinidad and Tobago government which outlined a policy position focusing on the building and supporting of SMEs as a key growth strategy. He noted that, "although it is still early days to see some evidence of this, it has definitely peaked my interest to make a contribution in an area I have been able to secure some expertise and a positive track record over the last 25 years".

St. Bernard is also the Founding Director of Priority Group of Companies, a Caribbean based business support services group and Caribbean Enterprise Network, a Caribbean diaspora business network which continues to attract Foreign Direct Investments (FDIs) into the Caribbean via annual SME trade missions. He is the owner and operator of the Archway Guesthouse (B&B) in the Windermere Lake District, which is now a world heritage site. According to him nationals from as many as 47 different countries visit each year and he is prepared to share his insights with local guest house owners and other tourism interested persons.

He is the Diaspora Liaison Officer for the Jamaica Stock Exchange (JSE), past Principal/CEO of the College of Insurance and Professional Studies (CIPS), Jamaica and served as Vice President of the Association of Insurance Institutes of the Caribbean for a number of years. Commenting on his involvement throughout most of the region, St. Bernard said that although he had been embraced by other Caribbean countries, he had not been given as great an opportunity to make a contribution in Trinidad and Tobago. However, he is hopeful that this time, he would be able to forge a successful and mutually beneficial relationship with the decision makers and stakeholders in the various sectors of the society.

RAMSAY-OVERALL PROMOTES WEIGHTLIFTING OPPORTUNITIES

Laura Denise Ramsay-Overall is passionate in her desire to "provide opportunities (through weightlifting in the main) for those members of society who are disadvantaged in some way". In a recent correspondence to the London Mission, Ramsay-Overall who is President of the Trinidad and Tobago Weightlifting Federation (TTOWF), said that her organisation's "latest initiative involves working with the Golden Grove detention centre for young men. This programme, she reported, "we have planned and organised as a course of study that is designed to lead to a formal qualification. It will be implemented, through Zodiac Arts, in partnership with British weightlifting".

Pictured: (**L-R)** Ms Ramsay-Overall President of Trinidad and Tobago Olympic Weightlifting Federation (TTOWF), High Commissioner Orville London, Dr Irani Chief Representative of International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) and Mr Laurence Carbon, General Secretary of TTOWF

She is convinced that "this is a wonderful opportunity for the young and underprivileged of Trinidad and Tobago to have made available to them, an internationally recognised sporting award". Claiming that " the course I run will have inclusion at its heart", Ramsay-Overall argued that "this award can provide a pool of individuals who will apply what they have learnt to any athletic training that they wish to pursue and the knowledge to feel confident enough to train in weightlifting for pleasure or competition. This, in turn, will create a group of individuals who will go on to become coaches in their own right".

Ramsay-Overall spoke of her organisation's initiative during the interactive session, after Prime Minister Dr Keith Rowley addressed nationals at the Amba Hotel, in London, last month. Dr Rowley was in London for the 2018 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting.

Pictured: Gerald Forsyth OBE.
Photo: Steelpantuners.com

A TRIBUTE TO ONE OF OUR GREATEST MUSICAL ICONS – GERALD FORSYTH OBE (1932 – 2017)

Written by **ROBBIE JOSEPH | PAN PODIUM**

Growing up in Ethel Street, St James, P.O.S with its diverse communities afforded Gerald the opportunity to experience their various musical and cultural forms – Shango and Hosay drums, the Tamboo Bamboo – but it was the advent of the steelpan that was by far the most influential on his life.

He was introduced to the piano at an early age and it was his mother's wish that he became a highly accomplished musician in the 1940s he began playing pan at the Newtown Boys School stealing away to take a knock whenever the opportunity presented itself.

It was Invaders Steel Band that was to be the early influence in his life. After leaving secondary school he formed the Green Eyes Steelband, named after a nightclub in close

Pictured: Gerald Forsyth OBE playing the tenor pan at 2014 UK Pan Tuners Guild Awards Ceremony hosted at the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission in London.
Photo: Kevin Joseph

proximity to their pan yard. Some of the players included Corbeau Jack Riley, Natsy and Bambi Contant, Boy Blue Mansing and Clifford Gill. Later, he turned his attention to pan making and tuning, studying under the illustrious Ellie Mannette at the 'University of Pan' – more commonly known as "Invaders Pan Yard". Through Gerald's instructions, his life long friend Michael 'Natsy' Contant made chromatic pans and Green Eyes Steelband was the first steel band worldwide to have them.

As his tuning skills developed, he travelled to other West Indian islands to practice his trade and in 1962 he migrated to Britain where he started gigging with Boots Davidson, Zigilee Constantine, Eamon Thorpe and Desmond Bowen. In 1964, he formed the Invaders Combo, which played regularly at the legendary Albany Pub and by 1966 he was in America teaching the pan.

On his return to the UK he formed a combo band and they toured Belgium, Italy and Spain. Whilst in Italy, he was approached by members of the Southern Symphony Steel Band with whom he toured Japan. In 1966, he returned to Britain and pioneered the teaching of the steelpan at the Islington Green School where he formed the New Sensation Steel Band. Gerald with other pan tutors was responsible for setting up the London Schools Steel Orchestra and in 1978, he was appointed to the post of Instrumental Organiser with an office in the GLC through Audrey Dennett.

By 1990, he was responsible for pan being part of the curriculum in hundreds of schools across London. He was instrumental in the formation of the Pan Players Association. As well as tuning pans for a number of steelbands, Gerard continued to teach the intricacies of playing pan and welcomed every opportunity to pass on his knowledge to future generations so that the artform can evolve with time.

In 2005, the British Association of Steelbands added Gerald to their Hall of Fame list for the promotion and development of the steel pan art form. Grerard was a founder member of the UK Steel Pan Tuners Guild where his knowledge and expertise proven to be a great asset and was highly respected by all his peers.

Sadly, Gerald Forsyth OBE, passed away on Friday 3rd November 2017. His life's journey will never be forgotten as his kindness, inspiration and musical knowledge will live on in the numerous musicians he tutored.

I say goodbye to an inspirational, talented and humble brother whose friendship I valued highly and who was a true cultural icon. God Speed as you continue your musical journey my Brother. R.I.P

SAMUEL MOURNED IN UK AND TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO (1981 – 2018)

The death of defender Jlloyd Samuel in a car crash on the morning of Tuesday May 15th, was greeted with shock and disbelief, both in the United Kingdom and Trinidad and Tobago. Samuel who was born in San Fernando, Trinidad, moved to England as a child and played for West Ham United and Charlton Athletic at youth level, before joining Aston Villa in 1998. After a decade at Villa, he spent four years at Bolton Wanderers. He represented Trinidad and Tobago during the 2010 World Cup qualifiers against Honduras and the United States in September 2009.

The Trinidad and Tobago Football Association, in announcing Samuel's death, said "The Trinidad and Tobago Football Association and his former team-mates extend deepest condolences to his family members, both in the UK and here in Trinidad and Tobago".

The 37 year old Samuel who was player-manager of non-league Egerton FC, is survived by his wife Emma and three children.

Pictured: Jlloyd Samuel
Photo: twitter.com/ttfootballassoc

TRINIDAD&TOBAGO CARNIVAL 2018 PICTORIAL

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Pictured: 1) Traditional canrival character - Jab Jab, **2)** Traditional canrival character - Moko jumbies, **3)** Senior Queen of Carnival 2018 - Lilith Mistress of the Eternally Dammed, **4)** Junior Queen of Carnival 2018 - Celebrations - Colour of Our People**, 5)** Costumed masquerader crosses the stage in Port of Spain, Trinidad **6)** Traditional canrival character - Fancy Indian, **7)** Traditional canrival character - Sailor Mas, **8)** Wendy Fitzwilliams former Miss Trinidad & Tobago Universe 1998.

9) Junior King of Carnival 2018 - Explosion of Our Culture, **10-15)** Kiddies Carnival in Tobago. **Photos - National Carnival Commission Trinidad and Tobago (fb.com/NCCTT), Ministry of Community Development, Culture and The Arts (fb.com/artsandculturett)**

TRINIDAD&TOBAGO CARNIVAL 2018 REVISITED

ONARCH

onal Calypso Monarch
Helon Francis - "*Changes*"
International Soca Monarch
- Aaron "Voice" St Louis - "*Year for Love*"
Chutney Soca Monarch
- Nishard Mayrhoo and Neval Chatelal - "*Masala*"

Junior Calypso Monarch
- Duane O'Connor - "A Man of Integrity"
Junior Soca Monarch
- Singer Boy Sergio of Fatima College and Desle Julien of St. Mary's College- *"Youth Take Over"*

Junior Chutney Soca Monarch
- Aaron Duncan of Queen's Royal College - *"Chutney Fire"*
Road March 2018
- Machel Montano and Superblue - *'Soca Kingdom'*

Clockwise from top: Helon Francis, Aaron Duncan and Nishard Mayrhoo and Neval Chatelal

PARADE OF THE BANDS

Senior King
- Earl Thompson - *"Death and the Maiden the Fancy King Sailor Plays"*
Senior Queen
- Roxanne Omalo -*"Lilith Mistress of the Eternally Damned"*
Senior Band of the Year (Large)
- Ronnie and Caro ... The Mas Band - *"Life's Checkered Board"*
Senior Band of the Year (Medium)
- K2K Alliance and Partners - "*We Stand United*"
Senior Band of the Year (Small)
- Tribal Connections Cultural Promotion - *"Call of D Tribes"*

Junior parade of the Bands (Large)
- Classix Productions - *"Les Grands Masques"*
Junior Parade of the Bands (Medium)
- Spoilt Rotten Kids - *"Desert Storm"*
Junior Parade of the Bands (small)
- Bits and Bites Productions - *"Let's be Amused"*

PANORAMA

National Panorama (Large)
- BP Renegades - *"Year for Love"*
National Panorama (Medium)
- Pan Elders - *"Limbo Break"*
National Panorama (Small Band)
- Golden Hands - *"Trouble"*
National Panorama (Single Pan)
- Newtown Playboys Steel Symphony - *"The Hammer"*
National Junior Panorama (Secondary Schools)
- St. Francois Girls' *College "Pan Break"*

TRINIDAD&TOBAGO

ROXBOROUGH POLICE YOUTH CLUB PARENT GROUP VISITS LONDON MISSION

Clockwise from left: Acting Superintendent of Police Collis Hazel, Lead of the Roxborough Police Youth Club; Marilyn Holder, President of Roxborough Police Youth Club recieves a token from the High Commissioner Orville London; Ms Hazel signs the High Commissioner guest book and; High Commissioner Orville London with the members of the Roxborough Police Youth Club Parent Group

Members of the Roxborough Police Youth Club Parent Group climaxed their week long trip to France and the United Kingdom with a courtesy call on High Commissioner Orville London at the London Mission on Thursday May 17th. During a lively interaction in the Mission's Reception Room, the 25 member contingent shared their experiences with the High Commissioner and exchanged views on topical issues including the impact of Brexit and the refugee crises in various parts of the world. According to one spokesperson, the highlights of the trip included visits to the Eiffel Tower and the Louvres Gallery in France and Buckingham Palace in England.

In a brief address, London praised Acting Superintendent Collis Hazel, Lead of the 28 year old Roxborough Police Youth Club, current President Marilyn Holder and the members of the Parent Group who have consistently organised tours and a series of other positive activities, over the years. Hazel said that, last year, they went on a cruise which took them to St Maarten, Aruba and Curacao but they have not confirmed their plans for 2019. He revealed that, in August of this year, the younger members will be celebrating the tenth anniversary of the Youth Exchange Programme with organisations in the United Stares. Hazel said that all 444 persons who had been involved in the programme, have been invited to a "get together" at Kings Bay, Delaford, Tobago. Some of the US based facilitators have been invited and will be honoured at the event.

Hazel and the other members of the Roxborough Police Youth Club Parent Group left the United Kingdom on Friday 18th, for the return trip to Tobago where the Youth Club's present focus is on the popular Night Football Tournament, now in progress.

RAMROOP BRINGS ULTRA BESPOKE TAILORING PROGRAMME TO TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

London based, Trinidad and Tobago national, Professor Andrew Ramroop OBE, founder of the Savile Row Academy, has collaborated with the Ministry of Trade and Industry, Fashion TT and MIC in the introduction of a highly successful Ultra Bespoke Tailoring Programme, in Trinidad and Tobago. The thirty two students who are enrolled in the one year certificate programme, have already completed the first of five modules, with the second module scheduled to start on 21st May.

Pictured: (Back row, L-R) Ms. Lisa-Marie Daniel, General Manager, FashionTT, Mr Jason Lindsay, Chairman FashionTT (centre) and Hon. Paula Gopee-Scoon, Minister of Trade and Industry looks on as Ms. Dionne Mc Nicol Stephenson, Director, CreativeTT, Prof Andrew Ramroop OBE and Professor Clement Imbert, Chairman MIC Institute of Technology, sign a collaborative agreement following the launch of the Ultra Bespoke Tailoring programme. **Photos: news.gov.tt**

The heavily oversubscribed programme was officially launched on 15th November 2017, at the MIC Institute of Technology where Minister of Trade and Industry Paula Gopee Scoon, affirmed that "this project takes us one step further from our reliance on oil and gas and one step closer to harnessing the talents of our creative sector, specifically those within the Fashion Industry. We are today creating opportunities for our existing and potential designers, dress makers, tailors and many others in the fashion value chain." Minister Gopee-Scoon emphasized that the Government recognizes the potential of the Creative Industries to contribute to income generation, job creation and also, as foreign exchange earners. She said "The local Fashion Industry is a priority and Government remains fully committed to the development and commercialization of this subsector."

Professor Andrew Ramroop, Founder of the Savile Row Academy, indicated that the Savile Row Academy is a tailoring school which provides a unique opportunity for persons wanting to acquire high-level knowledge skills and experiences needed for employment in established tailoring houses around the world or to establish their own businesses. He underscored that, "This programme is an investment in the people of Trinidad and Tobago, in an effort to create meaningful and sustainable career opportunities." Professor Ramroop has over 45 years' experience in the Fashion Industry with 12 years teaching design, pattern cutting, fitting and tailoring at the London College of Fashion.

The main objective of the programme is to provide specialist skills, through an intensive training programme. These skills will enable designers to progress into employment on the highest levels of tailoring and within the fashion related industries on an individual level. The programme is geared towards enabling the tailoring sector in Trinidad and Tobago to flourish through its association with the well- respected brand as Savile Row Academy, thereby encouraging acceptance into global markets.

Professor Ramroop has also signalled his intention to collaborate with the Tobago House of Assembly in the establishment of a shirt making training which would lead to developing a manufacturing facility on the island. This, according to Ramroop, will facilitate the production of high quality clothing to meet the demand of the upscale market.

LAMMY ADVISES YOUNG TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO DEBATERS

One of the United Kingdom's most articulate parliamentarians, has shared some of his experience and insights with young debaters in Trinidad and Tobago. David Lammy, the Labour representative for Tottenham, North London, since 2000, was the main presenter at the special session hosted by the Junior Achievement of Trinidad and Tobago, prior to the 2018 secondary schools Leadership Debate series.

Speaking during the session at Queen's Hall in Port of Spain, Lammy commended the Junior Achievement for the initiative, and expressed his concern that, although English is the dominant language, " not too many

persons are articulate". He noted that debating was a key skill in today's world, made more important in the age of social media and told the young debaters that, "You have to be persuasive and tenacious in your argument. You have to stick to your point and convince your audience that your position is the correct one. You are really taking people with you on your journey,"

Lammy who is a lawyer, and of Guyanese descent, led the Labour charge, inside and outside the Parliament, during the controversy over the treatment of members of the Windrush Generation. His was one of the voices which raised public awareness during the intense campaign and those who were at that Queen's Hall session in Trinidad would have been intrigued and impressed by the manner in which he exemplified the advice that he had given to them.

Pictured: (L-R), J. Errol Lewis, Executive Director, JAOTT, Kabir Singh, Presentation College student; UK MP David Lammy; Jerod Griffith, Presentation College student; Anthony Pierre, Chairman of JAOTT; Dawn Richards, Director of JAOTT. **Photo: Newsday.co.tt**

http://newsday.co.tt/2018/03/05/uk-mp-joins-forces-with-junior-achievement/#.Wp9MwJh6sBI.email

INVESTT LAUNCHES DIASPORA ENGAGEMENT PROJECT

Pictured: Christopher Lewis, President of Investt, (Seated) with InvesTT staff members. **Photo: InvesTT**

Nationals of Trinidad and Tobago living in the United Kingdom should take note of iloveTT, a Diaspora engagement initiative of InvesTT, the Investment Promotion Agency (IPA) of Trinidad and Tobago (T&T) under the Ministry of Trade and Industry, has been launched.

The project which was launched recently,"establishes a platform for long-term connections and collaboration with the T&T diaspora and seeks to create a vibrant and engaged community," Christopher Lewis, President InvesTT explains that "It's where ideas and information will be shared between national economic developers and the Diaspora in the hope of forming partnerships to achieve the country's developmental goals.

In carrying out its mandate to attract foreign investment into the country, InvesTT recognised the enormous potential of the Diaspora to contribute to economic and social development in various fields including sports, creative arts, venture capital, medicine, education and technology. At the foundation of the project is the compilation of a comprehensive database of T&T Diaspora located all around the globe. Persons who fall into this category are encouraged to **participate in a survey (www.surveymonkey.com/r/FSD8KMY** which will assist InvesTT to begin establishing connections that will develop the project.

Discussions on current events, investment opportunities and social programmes as well as country data reports, achievements and useful business guidelines will be accessible to all followers of the iloveTT social networks – Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Instagram.

Discussions on current events, investment opportunities and social programmes as well as country data reports, achievements and useful business guidelines will be accessible to all followers of the iloveTT social networks – Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Instagram.

If you are a member of the Trinidad and Tobago Diaspora, InvesTT is interested in hearing from you! Please take the survey now and contact the agency, via ttdiaspora@gmail. com.

To find out more about InvesTT and doing business in Trinidad and Tobago, please visit: *www.investt.co.tt*
fb.com/ttdiaspora868
twitter.com/ttdiaspora868
linkedin.com/in/ilove-tt-9ba4b8152
instagram.com/ttdiaspora/

PLACES OF INTEREST IN T&T

Photo: mountstbenedictabbey.org

MOUNT ST. BENEDICT MONASTERY, TRINIDAD

Rising above the Northern Range Hills over Tunapuna, the red-roofed church tower of Mount St. Benedict Monastery is one of the most striking landmarks east of Port of Spain. Benedictine monks established this community in 1912, and the monastery is the largest and oldest in the Caribbean. Founded on the principles of self-sufficiency and hospitality to strangers, the monastery complex encompasses religious buildings, a farm, a rehabilitation center, and guesthouse. Hiking and birding opportunities abound in the surrounding forest, and the monastery is famous for its yogurt, which is shipped to supermarkets across the country. Official site: mountstbenedictabbey.org

Pictured: Main-Ridge. Photo: nationaltrust.tt

MAIN RIDGE FOREST RESERVE, TOBAGO

Rich in biodiversity, the Main Ridge Forest Reserve is purportedly the oldest legally protected forest in the Western Hemisphere. The reserve harbors more than half of the island's bird species, including the blue-backed manakin, collared trogon, and many species of hummingbirds. Hiking through the lush foliage, you can also spot frogs, lizards, snakes, and butterflies. The road through the reserve from north to south, near the eastern end of Tobago, is one of the more scenic ways to see the forest. At the top of the ridge are hiking trails and freelance guides.

SPOTLIGHT

GREEN DAYS BY THE RIVER UK PREMIERE

On March 21st, the Trinidad and Tobago diaspora and British audience had the opportunity to attend the UK film premiere of Green Days by the River at Rio Cinema in Dalston, London.

The award winning and critically-acclaimed film directed by Michael Mooleedhar was produced, edited and shot entirely on location in Trinidad using local actors and crew. It is based on the novel of the same name by the Trinidad and Tobago author Michael Anthony. Set in 1952 Trinidad, the film follows Shellie (Sudai Tafari), an ambitious village boy struggling with poverty and his sick father finds solace in a wealthy farmer, Mr. Gidharee (Anand Lawkaran), and his captivating daughter, until he falls for a city girl, and discovers the scheming entrapment of his solace that would shatter his love life and manhood. The film debuted at the 2017 Trinidad and Tobago Film Festival.

The film Director Michael Mooleedhar was present for a special Q&A session. He was delighted by the audience rave reviews, incredible support from the Trinidad and Tobago diaspora that turned out in their numbers and the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission.

A TASTE OF HOME

MOUTHWATERING RECIPES FROM TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

SPANISH RICE

Ingredients

Serves 4

- 1 cup long grained or parboiled rice
- 2 tbsp. olive or vegetable oil
- ½ cup finely chopped onion
- 1 clove garlic, crushed
- ¼ cup thinly sliced celery
- ½ cup sweet pepper, finely chopped
- 1 can tomatoes (19 oz.), chopped
- 2 tsp. salt
- ¼ tsp. black or hot pepper
- ¼ cup grated cheese

Method:

1. Sauté rice in hot oil until golden brown
2. Add onion, garlic, celery and sweet pepper and cook until onion is tender
3. Add tomato together with liquid, salt and pepper to rice mixture
4. Bring rice to a boil; cover, lower heat and cook until rice is tender and liquid is absorbed about 25-30 minutes. Add water if necessary.
5. Sprinkle cheese on top before serving.

GREEN FIG SOUSE

Ingredients

- 2 lbs. Green figs (bananas)
- 2-3 tbsp. lime juice
- 2 cloves garlic, crushed
- ½ cup thinly sliced onion
- 1 tsp. salt
- ½ tsp. chopped hot pepper
- ¼ tsp. ground white pepper
- 1 cup sliced cucumbers
- ½ cup chopped watercress

Method:

1. Boil figs, drain, peel and slice crosswise in ½˝ pieces
2. Add enough water to just cover the figs.
3. To this, add lime juice, garlic and onions.
4. Season with salt, hot pepper and white pepper'
5. Add cucumbers and watercress; combine well.

Chill for a few hours before serving.

DHALPURIE

(GROUND SPLIT PEAS ROTI)

Ingredients

Serves 8

- ½ lb. Split peas
- ½ tsp. saffron
- 2 tsp. salt
- 3 cloves garlic
- 1 tbsp. vegetable oil
- 2-3 tsp. ground cumin (geera)
- 1 lb. or 4 cups flour
- 3 tsp. baking powder
- 1½ cups water to mix (approx.)
- ¼ cup oil or melted margarine or combination of both for coating

Method:

1. Boil split peas with saffron, 1 tablespoon salt and garlic until firm but cooked. Drain well.
2. Grind to a powder and fry in 1 tablespoon oil for 1 minute turning constantly to avoid sticking or burning.
3. Add geera and salt to taste. Cool.
4. Mix together flour, baking powder, I teaspoon salt and water to make a soft dough.
5. Knead dough until soft.
6. Cut dough into 8 pieces or according to the size of the baking stone (tawah).
7. Shape into round balls; open each and in the centre and place about 3-4 tablespoons of prepared split pea filling. Pull the sides over and close up to form a ball with the filling inside. Dredge lightly with flour to prevent sticking.
8. Carefully roll out filled balls very thinly, using enough flour on surface to prevent sticking.
9. Heat and grease griddle or tawah and place a rolled roti on it
10. Cook for one minute; turn over roti and brush with oil or melted magazine.
11. Cook for ½ minute and turn over and brush with oil.
12. Cook remaining filled dough in this way.

Serve with curried meat and vegetables.

The Multi-Cultural Cuisine of Trinidad and Tobago and the Caribbean - Naparima Girls' High School Cookbook (Updated and revised version)

UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY 3RD JUNE

ETIENNE CHARLES - CREOLE SOUL 'LIVE IN CONCERT'

THE TABERNACLE 34-35 POWIS SQUARE, LONDON W11 2AY. TIME: 5 PM

Caribbean history and culture will be interpreted through music when acclaimed Jazz trumpeter Etienne Charles returns to London on June 3rd. The Trinbagonian musician, who has played for sold-out audiences in Trinidad and Tobago as well as in Japan and the US, will take his London audience on a musical journey to discover and appreciate the cultural roots of the Caribbean.

Charles last played in London in 2012. Since then, he has released five albums - Kaiso, Creole Soul, Creole Christmas, San Jose Suite and Carnival, the Sound of a People.

In 2018, Charles won the NAACP Image Awards for Outstanding Jazz Album after serving as an associate producer on Somi's "Petite Afrique" (Sony Music/OKeh). Charles co-wrote five songs on @Petite Afrique (the Gentry, Black Enough, Let Me, Midnight Angels and They're like Ghosts) as well as arranged strings, horns and played percussion and trumpet on the album.

For further information please visit, www.tabernaclew11.com/events/2018-06-03-etienne-charles-creole-soul-the-tabernacle

TUESDAY 26TH - FRIDAY 29TH JUNE

THE CARIBART EXHIBITION - 'MY SUGAR ISLAND'

THE HIGH COMMISSION FOR THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, LONDON SW1X 8NT. TIME: 1 PM - 4 PM

The exhibition celebrates the Cultural Heritage of the Caribbean through contemporary art and will showcase the work of emerging Caribbean artists as they use their creative talent to bring their islands to life.

This exhibit will be open for viewing to the general public on Tuesday 26th June 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. You must have a ticket to enter as we are unable to admit walk-in visitors.

For further information, please visit www.caribartcollections.com | Enquiries: info@borntowinglobal.com | Call: +44 (0) 7903718529

THURSDAY 7TH, TUESDAY 12TH & TUESDAY 19TH AUGUST

T&T DEFENCE FORCE STEEL ORCHESTRA TO PERFORM AT 'TASTE OF THE TATTOO'

FREE 'TASTE OF THE TATTOO' SHOWS PLANNED ACROSS SCOTLAND. TIME 12:30-1:30PM

Three exclusive performances of this summer's 65th Edinburgh Tattoo, during the period 1st – 23rd August will include performance by the Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force Steel Orchestra.

'Taste of the Tattoo' presentations, have been created to celebrate the Year of Homecoming and will include performances in Stirling 'the brooch which clasps together the Highlands and the Lowlands', the bustling metropolis of Glasgow and Scotland's waterfront and sunniest city, Dundee.

This series of free lunchtime events will showcase some 600 performers and will take place at the following locations:

THURSDAY, 7TH - GEORGE SQUARE, GLASGOW. TIME: 12:30-1:30PM

TUESDAY, 12TH - PORT STREET , STIRLING. TIME: 12:30-1:30PM

TUESDAY, 19TH - CITY SQUARE, DUNDEE. TIME: 12:30-1:30PM

For further information, please visit https://www.edintattoo.co.uk | Email: Stirling2014@stirling.gov.uk | Call: 01382 527527

The line-up will include audience favourites such as the Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force Steel Orchestra, Highland Dancers from 'Down Under', Massed Military Bands, an Indian cultural troupe, along with the inimitable Massed Pipes and Drums.

SUNDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER

A THANKSGIVING INTERFAITH SERVICE

ST PETER'S SQUARE, LONDON W6 9AB TIME: TBA

HURRICANE RELIEF TWENTY20 CHALLENGE

WINDIES V ICC WORLD XI

LORD'S • 31 MAY 2018 • 6PM

Supporting the rebuilding of cricket facilities in the Caribbean countries ravaged by Hurricanes Irma and Maria.

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Ashley Nurse
Keemo Paul
Rovman Powell
Denesh Ramdin (Wkt)
Andre Russell
Marlon Samuels
Kesrick Williams

ICC WORLD XI

Eoin Morgan (C-England)
Dinesh Karthik (India)
Mitchell McClenaghan (NZ)
Hardik Pandya (India)
Thisara Perera (Sri Lanka)
Rashid Khan (Afghanistan)
Luke Ronchi (Wkt-NZ)
Shahid Afridi (Pakistan)
Shoaib Malik (Pakistan)
Sandeep Lamichhane (Nepal)
Tamim Iqbal (Bangladesh)

Tickets from £10 to £60
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PUBLIC HOLIDAYS 2018

THURSDAY 31ST MAY
CORPUS CHRISTI

TUESDAY 19TH JUNE
LABOUR DAY

MONDAY 27TH AUGUST
SUMMER BANK HOLIDAY

FRIDAY 31ST AUGUST
INDEPENDENCE DAY

MONDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER
REPUBLIC DAY

TUESDAY 25TH DECEMBER
CHRISTMAS DAY

WEDNESDAY 26TH DECEMBER
BOXING DAY

EID-UL-FITR
TO BE ANNOUNCED

DIVALI
TO BE ANNOUNCED

EVENTS ROUND UP

Clockwise from left: National signs former President Maxwell Richards TC condolence book; High Commissioner Orville London met with Meiling Esau who represented Trinidad and Tobago and the Caribbean at a Reception hosted by His Excellency Sir Jerry Mateparae at the New Zealand High Commission - London, United Kingdom on February 20th; Commonwealth Lunch at St Mary's Church, and Tourism dsiplay on the board in St Mary's Church.

A PUBLICATION OF THE HIGH COMMISSION FOR THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, LONDON
42 BELGRAVE SQUARE, LONDON SW1X 8NT | **TEL:** 020 7245 9351 | **FAX:** 020 7823 1065 | **EMAIL:** HCLONDONPACT@FOREIGN.GOV.TT
WEBSITE: WWW.FOREIGN.GOV.TT/HCLONDON